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OPINION METER

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INSIDE

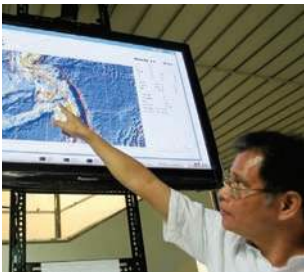
BUSINESS



The real Super Bowl showdown is
between advertisers.

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ASIA



A 6.8-magnitude earthquake hits
the central Philippines, killing a
child.

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LIFE & STYLE



An extended middle finger is likely
to be the most remembered of Su-
per Bowl halftime.

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ACCJC report cites 11 concerns, deficiencies. PAGE 3
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Female bartender disappears

» **Bartender
reportedly made
a 911 call Sunday**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The CNMI community was jolted yesterday by news that a 37-year-old female bartender had disappeared early Sunday morning and that police had received a 911 call from her cell phone just before it was cut off.

See FEMALE on Page 4

Police detective Simon Manacop interviews Godfather's Bar owners Ron E. Biggers, right, and Scott Dottino, second from left, along Chichirica Avenue in Garapan where bartender Emerita Relata Romero was last seen early Sunday morning. Also in photo is Romero's brother, Eduardo Relata, left.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE



OPA gets 'highest' rating in peer review

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

The CNMI Office of the Public Auditor received "full compliance" or the highest of three possible ratings in a U.S. Office of Insular Affairs-funded peer review that looked into OPA's compliance with government auditing standards from Oct. 1, 2009 through Sept. 30, 2011.

A three-member team from the Association of Pacific Islands Public Auditors, or APIPA, issued a final report on CNMI OPA pursuant to a "peer" or quality control review.

External quality control reviews of all audit offices issuing audit reports guided

by Government Auditing Standards are required at least every three years. Because of this requirement, the CNMI OPA initiated and contracted with APIPA.

Satrunino Tewid, acting public auditor of Palau and leader of the APIPA team that reviewed CNMI OPA, told the CNMI Legislature that CNMI OPA "was determined to be in full compliance with government auditing standards for the period reviewed."

"Full compliance is the highest of three possible ratings issued in an external quality control review," Tewid told Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) in a Dec. 15, 2011 letter that the CNMI Senate received only on Feb. 3, 2012.

See OPA on Page 4

Finance: \$1.06M budget surplus in three months

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson reported yesterday a government budget surplus of \$1.06 million in the first quarter of 2012—an improvement from the quarterly average deficit of \$6.45 million in fiscal year 2011.

In a report to the Legislature, Larson said government expenditures and obligations reached \$25,607,741 in October to

December 2011.

The fiscal year 2012 budget is \$102 million. The Fitial administration expects fiscal year 2013 to have the same amount, back to the level of some 22 years ago.

The surplus was mostly because the government's actual "all others" or operational expenses were much lesser than what it allotted for by over \$2.7 million. This cushioned the impact of a \$1.66 million over-spending in "personnel."

See FINANCE on Page 4



Larson



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Local

Hart: No work-hour cuts for NMC employees

Northern Marianas College president Sharon Y. Hart has assured that, if ever the college needs to tighten its belt, she will first look into all other areas of the college's programs and operation to ensure that personnel will be spared from any work-hour cuts.

The college currently has 171 employees—both instructional and non-instructional—much lower than in previous fiscal years when the college had either close to or over 200 personnel.

Hart said that NMC has constant and open communication with the Legislature, which approves its yearly budget. The college was allocated a budget of just \$5.1 million this fiscal year. Some \$3.9 million will be used for personnel cost, while \$1.2 million is for all others and operation.

Last fiscal year, NMC was forced to cut its work hours due to a budget shortfall.

NMC recently eliminated one dean position and the chief financial administrative officer position to save some money. Hart said this is in addition to the savings generated from asking qualified employees to teach classes within their 40-hour workweek schedule. The

savings on this alone is about \$50,000.

According to Hart, NMC's enrollment continues to grow, which demonstrate the community's support for the college.

"We truly believe that we are the engine of economic growth in the CNMI and we will continue to do our very best to provide the different types of programs at the institution,"

she said, assuring that quality of education and services will not be jeopardized at NMC.

During a previous Board of Regents meeting, NMC officials presented cost-effective proposals to address any projected deficit.

Among these recommendations are cutting legal fees, scouting for cheaper airfare for personnel who go on of-

ficial travel, maximizing employees' potential and skills by asking them to teach, reducing overload payments to instructors, and reducing expenses on Tinian and Rota, among others.

The college is also reviewing its staffing patterns among limited term appointees and interim positions to generate savings. (Moneth G. Deposa)

Local GOP to choose six delegates that will help pick presidential bet

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Republicans in the CNMI will select on March 10 six of the nine delegates that it will send to the August Republican National Convention in Florida to help pick the GOP's presidential candidate to challenge President Barack Obama in the Nov. 6 polls.

NMI Republican Party members organizing the event confirmed yesterday that the delegates' selection will be on March 10, a Saturday, but they have yet to finalize the place and time.

Three of the nine delegates

are party leaders: Gov. Benigno R. Fitial as chairman/president of the NMI Republican Party, national committeeman Bo Palacios, and national committeewoman Viola Alepuyo.

The nine delegates—the three party leaders and the six delegates to be selected on March 10—will attend the Aug. 27 to 30 Republican National Convention in Tampa, Florida.

At the convention, the Republicans will pick the party's candidates for president and vice president.

As of yesterday, there's no telling whether the Republicans here will endorse frontrunner and former Massachusetts gov-

ernor Mitt Romney, runner-up and former House speaker Newt Gingrich, Rep. Ron Paul, or former Pennsylvania senator Rick Santorum.

In 2008, Republican delegates from the CNMI endorsed Sen. John McCain.

The NMI Republican Party received official recognition from the national organization in 2004.

Other U.S. insular areas, such as American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and Puerto, will also have at least nine delegates each to the national convention.

CNMI voters cannot participate in federal elections.

Jurors begin deliberation in Garapan arson case

Seven federal jurors began deliberations yesterday in the lawsuit filed by FirstNet Insurance Co. against the owner of a clothing store in Garapan that went up in flames in 2010.

The jurors started their deliberation in the morning. As of 4:30pm yesterday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona excused the jurors as they had not

reached a verdict yet.

They are expected to continue their deliberations today, Tuesday.

FirstNet, through counsel Richard W. Pierce, is suing Zhen Rui Brother Corp., the owner of BL Clothing Store, for allegedly deliberately setting off the blaze so the corporation's owner, Zheng Biao, could claim \$414,718.53 in

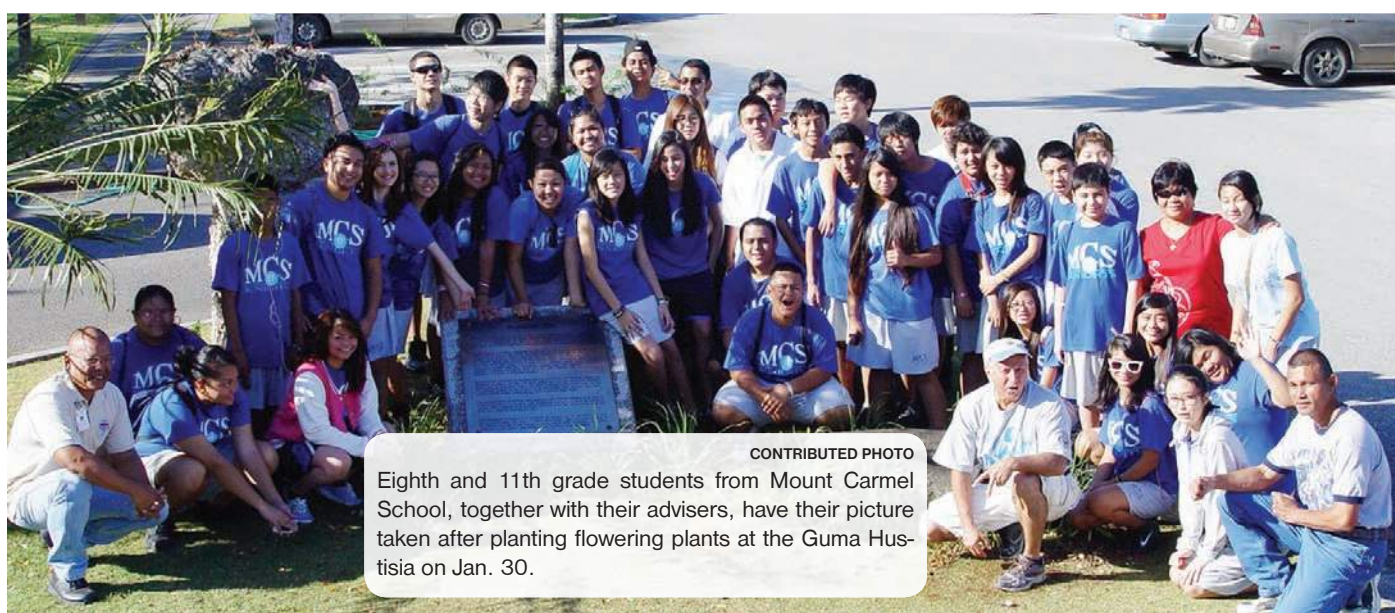
insurance proceeds.

Zhen Rui Brother Corp., through counsels Ramon Quichocho and Michael Dotts, is countersuing FirstNet for breach of contract for refusing to pay the insurance policy.

The fire broke out in the early morning hours of Oct. 30, 2010. Arson investigators determined that there was an explosion at the store.

A materialist scientist from Malaysia, who was hired by FirstNet to investigate the fire, concluded that the blaze was intentionally set off. The investigator found trails of fabric that had gasoline inside the store.

Biao denied burning down his store and said he does not know who set off the blaze. (Ferdie de la Torre)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Eighth and 11th grade students from Mount Carmel School, together with their advisers, have their picture taken after planting flowering plants at the Guma Hustisia on Jan. 30.

MCS students plant flowers at courthouse

Eighth and 11th grade students from Mount Carmel School planted flowers and hedges Monday, Jan. 30, at the Guma Hustisia as part of their service to the community during Catholic Schools Week.

The plantings and beautification in front of the courthouse was in part a demonstration of the students' appreciation of the instruction, guidance, and facilities provided by the Judiciary for the "Mock Trial" prac-

tices and competitions, in which many Mount Carmel students are intensely involved.

Candida Bahillo, advisor for the 8th grade, and Rosiky Camacho, advisor for the 11th grade, accompanied the stu-

dents. James Babauta of the Forestry Division of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources coordinated the planting and donation of the plants, which consisted of Miniature Exora, Spider Plants, and Yellow Trumpets. (NMI Judiciary)



A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

7th Saipan Marathon Registration
Deadline Feb. 9



Organizers of the 7th Saipan Marathon on March 3, 2012 are reminding runners to register by the deadline of Feb. 9.

The Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) has been working closely with ad agency Dentsu of Japan to promote the Saipan Marathon on a marathon information website called Runtomo that targets beginner runners. The site carries information on the event and tourist attractions under the Saipan Marathon section and features a top banner link on the top page. Registration in Japan began in late October and is being accepted through three sites: Sports Entry, JTB Sports Station, and Runnet. About 950 runners are expected this year.

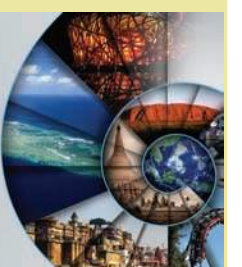
Details of the event were distributed to travel agents by e-mail. As a result, JTB World Vacations, ST World, Hiroden, KNT, White Bear, H.I.S., NTA Hokkaido, Club Tourism have created Saipan Marathon travel package products.

This year's race will add a 50K leg to the continuing full marathon (26.2 mi./42.195km), a half marathon (13.1 mi./21.1km) and a 10K (6.2 miles). Over 20 international runners have already registered for the ultra marathon 50K.

For a registration form or more information, visit www.mymarianas.com or <http://japan.mymarianas.com/saipanmarathon/> or contact Ed Diaz of the MVA at ediaz@mymarianas.com or 1.670.664.3200/1. Registration payment may be made via cash or check at the MVA Accounting Office, Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1-5 p.m.



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ACCJC report on NMC cites 11 concerns and deficiencies

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College needs to resolve 11 concerns and deficiencies in order to get out of "probation" status, according to a report recently made public by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges.

The 21-page report detailed the ACCJC team's observations and evidence found during its visit to the college in November. The report also showed detailed evidence of each deficiency, of which eight concerns were resolved based on their findings and observations.

The report kicked off with what NMC had done right so far, particularly in protecting its autonomy from the government. The ACCJC team lauded the Board of Regents for issuing a resolution affirming its autonomy and its constant communication with the Legislature. It was noted that, although the government retains authority over

the appropriation of funds for NMC, it does not have line item or staffing control. The college also has control over the implementation of budget cuts and staffing.

Evidence also showed that the board has renewed its focus on its policy and oversight role through a resolution defining the boundaries between board oversight and administrative operational responsibilities of the NMC president.

The team also praised the hiring of personnel in various positions, including the presidency, with the appointment of Dr. Sharon Hart in July 2011. Prior to her entry, NMC didn't have a permanent chief executive officer since January 2010.

The team also determined that NMC has made great strides in recruiting people for administrative posts.

The report also bared that NMC planning is detailed in the 2008 Institutional Excellence Guide and is implemented through campus-wide governance bodies and standing

committees. NMC was also successful in demonstrating faculty efforts in distinguishing between personal conviction and professional views through necessary workshops.

The issue of confidentiality in the college's accreditation efforts was also deemed resolved through some actions and appropriate trainings initiated by the college and its board.

Continued probation

Although the NMC president has created a "white paper" outlining key principles that will guide budgeting decisions, the team noted that NMC's financial stability remains unclear.

Of particular concern for the

team was the dissolution of the college's budget and finance committee, saying this makes program review and budget planning uncertain.

During their visit, the team was informed about this committee's important role, only to find out during their exit interview that it had been dissolved.

This is particularly perplexing because this committee was identified by NMC as an integral component to budget planning, as indicated in its report to the commission.

The team also disclosed that despite corrective plans, deficiencies continue to occur in NMC's internal control as shown by the college's audit findings, specifically in

grant programs.

Additionally, the ACCJC team learned about a previously unknown \$1.5 million that was only recently identified for the college. If these funds had been identified earlier, austerity Friday would have been unnecessary for the college, the team said.

"The internal control issue and the discovery of unknown funds point to a weakness in the financial management system that limit the college's ability to make sound financial decisions. Information from the system is neither dependable nor timely. The audits attest to the accuracy of the financial information system; however it appears that there

are more systematic issues with financial management," the team bared in its report.

One issue is the "apparent disconnect" between the CFAO and members of the financial staff. The team recommended the immediate recruitment of a permanent CFAO for the college.

Due to a sequence of events that happened in a November board meeting that the team observed for several hours, the team determined that college staff members need additional training in how to relate to the board and the college needs to develop board agendas that are structured and clearly identify action items and information items as well as the nature of board action required.

CUC says \$10M loan will fund 27 projects

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. disclosed that its \$10-million loan from Independence Bank will be used to fund several projects and initiatives that will result in more dependable and reliable power, water, and wastewater supply in the Commonwealth.

CUC said that the 27 projects are mostly intended to meet the requirements of two stipulated orders.

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission recently approved the loan proposal.

CUC reported to the commission that a large chunk of the proposed loan—totaling some \$3.859 million—will be used to build the infrastructure for safe fuel storage, handling and transfer at power plants.

For the design, installation and commissioning of oil, CUC proposes \$1.024 million to be used for water separators for tanks, incinerators, office gate, and for the Rota power plant; \$775,000 for truck offloading area and containments; \$530,000 for storage tank repair and replacement; \$680,000 for project management and monitoring; \$250,000 for Rota's used oil program; \$200,000 for oil pipeline; and \$400,000 for power plant 1's storm water drainage.

CUC also wants to use \$400,000 for power transmission and distribution, which include the procurement and revision of pad mount transformers, switchgear, underground cables,

remote controlled ABS, and line materials for line hardening and upgrading project.

For power generation, \$3.245 million will be used in the following areas: \$200,000 for power plant 1's building repairs and control roof replacement; \$150,000 for power plant 2's building repairs; \$800,000 for power plant 1 engine 2 and 3's overhaul; \$450,000 for power plant 2 engine 1,3,6's rebuilding; \$120,000 for power plant 2's alternator repair; \$104,400 for power plant 1 control room AC replacement; \$26,000 for power plant 1 engine room lighting; \$1.170 million for power plant 1's programmed maintenance parts and equipment; \$100,000 for fire fighting equipment for power plants 1 and 2; and \$125,000 for extension to power generation admin building.

For finance and accounting, \$698,077 will be used for the following purposes: \$370,000 for installation of 1,000 pre-paid watt-hour meters and \$328,077 for resource management system software and hardware.

CUC wants to borrow \$10 million from the Rhode Island-based Independence Bank of East Greenwich to complete the requirements of the stipulated orders. This loan proposal has the backing of U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Independence Bank earlier issued a preliminary commitment letter on the proposed \$10 million loan but final approval will depend on CUC's compliance with all requirements.

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Commerce backs transfer of inactive bank accounts to Treasury

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Commerce Secretary Sixto K. Igisomar asked Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to immediately approve a revenue-gen-

erating bill that allows the government to have access to dormant and inactive bank accounts and unclaimed funds.

House Bill 17-139, House Draft 2, which cleared the Legislature in December, is now before the governor for

action.

"To better provide transparency and services to our consumers and responding to their needs in preventing banking institutions from raiding savings accounts in an effort to protect the

account holder from losing their hard-earned funds, I respectfully request your immediate approval of House Bill 17-139, HD2," Igisomar told Fitial in a two-page letter.

Igisomar cited five reasons for fully supporting and endorsing the bill's passage, including Commerce's own request to amend existing law to making "mandatory" transfers of inactive/dormant accounts to Treasury versus the "may" or discretionary provision and to have the CNMI's law consistent with other U.S. banking laws.

Igisomar said Commerce has also received numerous complaints from owners of accounts becoming dormant and could not access to such account

after a period of time.

He said signing this bill into law would also standardize local banking laws with other neighboring islands inasmuch as most of the CNMI banks are branches of banks in Hawaii and Guam.

Igisomar said this legislation also addresses the reporting of dormant/inactive accounts which is something the banks can start producing and submitting.

He added that upon enactment of HB 17-239, HD2, introduced by Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), Commerce will immediately work with the Department of Finance and the Office of the Attorney General to expedite the promulgation of regulations.

Jury trial begins for man accused of impregnating girl

U.S. District Court for Guam Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood is presiding over a jury trial of Melvin David Diaz, a 49-year-old Guam resident who is facing charges of impregnating a girl on Rota.

Tydingco-Gatewood began the jury selection yesterday.

Saipan Tribune learned that the

jury selection will continue today, Tuesday.

Former Superior Court associate judge Juan T. Lizama and attorney David Banes are representing Diaz. Assistant U.S. attorney Clyde Lemons Jr., a former CNMI criminal prosecutor, is prosecuting the case.

Diaz is charged with three counts of

enticement of a minor and one count of travel with intent to engage in illicit sexual conduct.

According to the indictment, between Aug. 1, 2010 and Sept. 30, 2010, Diaz traveled from Guam to the CNMI for the purpose of engaging in illicit sex with the minor. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

FEMALE

From Page 1

As of press time, Federal Bureau of Investigation and Department of Public Safety agents were still searching for Emerita "Emie" Relata Romero, an employee of Godfather's Bar. Her family members and friends joined the search that focused in the Marpi area.

This comes even as the disappearance of sisters Faloma and Maleina Luhk in May 2011 remains unsolved.

Romero, a Filipino, reportedly made a 911 call on Sunday at 3:02am, saying "Marianas Resort" then the phone was cut off.

Romero was reportedly last seen at approximately 3am boarding a green or blue tinted sedan in the parking lot of Call-A-Ride Saipan in front of Musung Building on Chichirica Avenue corner Kadena Di Amor St. in Garapan.

According to police, Romero was last seen wearing a gray sleeveless blouse with a flower on the left corner, black shorts, and sandals with jewels. She has a slender build, 5'3" tall, weighing 100 lbs, has long straight brown hair, and brown eyes.

According to Romero's employers, however, she is about 5'6" tall and has black hair.

Scott Dottino, one of the owners of Godfather's Bar, asked the public for information—even minor details—that would help authorities find Romero.

"Please help us in any way. We are all family here. We need everybody's help," Dottino said. "We're begging everybody to help us with this search."

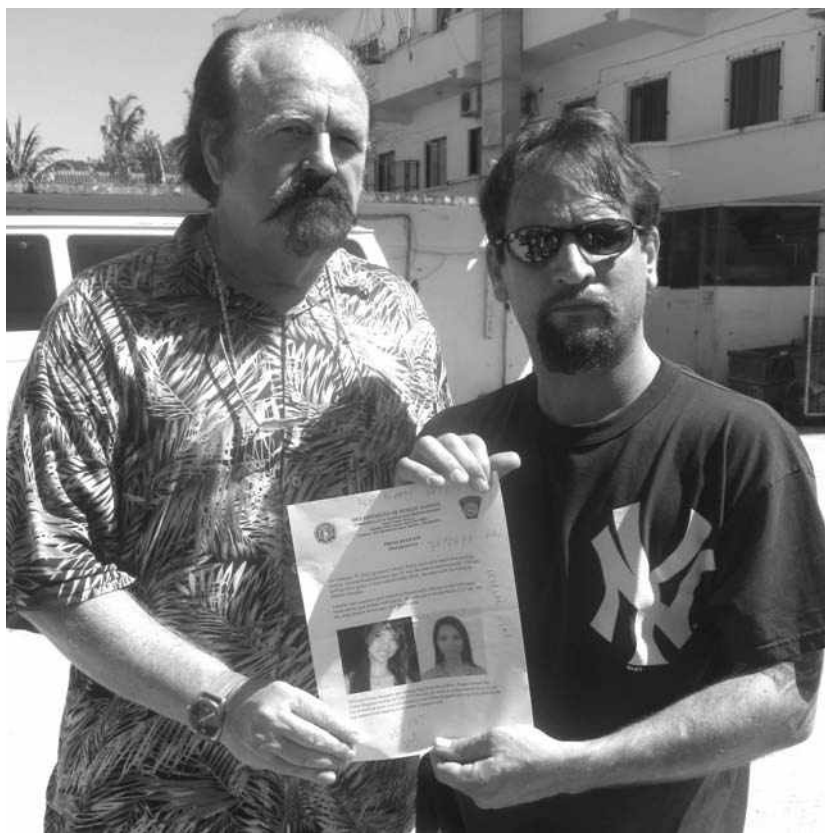
A witness, Natalie Ocon, 43, told *Saipan Tribune* that when Romero got into the front passenger side of the car, she heard a man "with American accent" asking her, "What's that?"

Ocon, who also works at Godfather's Bar as a cook, said the man was apparently asking about the bag of bananas that Romero was carrying at the time.

According to information provided by Ocon, Dottino, and the bar's co-owner, Ron E. Biggers, Romero and three other co-workers left Godfather's Bar Sunday at 2:43am aboard a taxicab on their way home to Garapan.

The taxicab first dropped Ocon at her residence at Casa de Felipe, followed by Romero and their two other colleagues. The bar's three employees live just a few blocks from each other. Romero's house is behind Softland Computer, along the corner of Chichirica Avenue and Dama Di Noche St.

Ocon said that she noticed upon arriving home that she had mistakenly interchanged her bag of bananas with that of Romero's so she called her on the phone.



Godfather's Bar owners Scott Dottino and Ron E. Biggers display a poster of missing employee Emerita "Emie" Relata Romero.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Romero told her to just get the bananas tomorrow because she already wanted to sleep. Ocon, however, insisted and they agreed to meet outside.

While walking along Chichirica Avenue to meet Romero, Ocon saw Romero hurriedly walking toward her.

A car coming from the direction of Beach Road arrived and parked in the grassy area of the parking lot of Call-A-Ride Saipan. Romero told the person in the car to wait. Romero then approached Ocon and exchanged bags.

Ocon said she asked Romero why she hasn't changed clothes yet and why she was in a hurry. Ocon said Romero stated that the one in the car was her Bangladeshi neighbor.

Ocon said she then saw her friend get into the front passenger seat of the car, which then left in the direction of Mobil Station on Middle Road.

Later that afternoon, Ocon sent a text message to Romero to ask her if she would walk with her to Godfather's Bar to report for work but Romero never replied. Ocon said that when she arrived at Godfather's Bar, she found out that Romero had not reported for work.

Biggers and Dottino said that when they opened the bar Sunday at 5pm, Romero did not show up.

"Very unusual. She's been with us for three years and she's never been late. She always calls and sends text messages," Biggers said.

Biggers said they sent their maintenance worker to Romero's house and found out from her brother that she did not come home that day.

That's when they called the police and filed a missing person report.

Biggers said the FBI also came that night as the case has been categorized as a kidnapping.

Biggers said the police told them that once they learned Romero's cell phone number, the officers checked their office and found that Romero made a 911 call Sunday at 3:02am, but the call was cut after she stated "Marianas Resort."

Biggers and Dottino said they could only speculate that Romero was probably aboard a car that was driving at high speed.

Romero stays at a house with her sister, brother, and cousin. Her husband and two daughters are in the Philippines.

Eduardo Relata, 43, told *Saipan Tribune* that his sister, Romero, did not go inside their house that morning. He said that when Romero comes in, she would open the light and this would wake him up.

Relata said that their other sister was on the Internet until 4am and did not notice her come in.

Relata said they only learned that Romero did not return home when Dottino called on Sunday at 5pm and asked for her whereabouts.

"My sister did not send any text message. I don't know if she has a boyfriend. I know she has many suitors, but I know she does not go out alone," he said.

Relata said his sister is very kind and is the lone breadwinner for their mother, who lives in Plaridel, Bulacan.

CLARIFICATION

Masanori Takahashi is the current general manager of PDI. Tomie Takahiro is the person who has been elected to replace Yoichi Matsumura and represent PDI, the Saipan subsidiary company of Kinki Nippon Tourist Co. Ltd. or KNT.

FINANCE

From Page 1

Of the over \$25.6 million spending and obligations from October to December, \$18,381,930 million was for personnel, while \$7,225,811 was for "all others" or operational spending.

"The CNMI government was well within the limits for expenditure placed on it by Public Law 17-55 by \$1,064,761," Larson told Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) and House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan).

Larson, however, pointed out that "areas of concern" that will need to be addressed before the end of the fiscal year include government utilities and medical referral.

Actual utilities expense reached over \$2.34 million when allotment was only \$1.25 million, resulting in an overspending of more than \$1.09 million.

Medical referral spending exceeded allotment by \$499,894.

Manglona, when asked yesterday, said he has yet to fully review the first quarter 2012 report but at first glance he questioned the government's non-payment of scholarship money to students at a time when the administration is reporting improvements in collection and spending.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan), for his part, lauded the Fitial administration for living within its means.

"Good to hear about that [surplus]. And I hope it gets a lot better as the year progresses," Basa told *Saipan Tribune* in a phone interview.

The budget deficit in fiscal year 2011 reached \$25.8 million—an average of

\$6.45 million every quarter. That was when the Department of Public Health budget was still part of the total government budget, and DPH overspending was a main reason for that deficit.

Basa, who said he has yet to see a copy of the financial report, said he will push for the passage of his bill providing a \$10 million line of credit to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., formerly DPH, to help its finances.

The fiscal year 2012 budget law requires a report detailing allotments, expenditures and obligations funded by general fund appropriations for a three-month period ending Dec. 31, 2011.

Larson said any changes in the report will be reflected in subsequent quarterly reports, which will be provided to the Legislature as soon as completed.

Based on Finance's report, the departments/activities other than utilities and medical referral that exceeded allotments include the Office of the Attorney General by \$120,416; Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, \$25,997; Department of Public Safety, \$422,816; DPS-Rota, \$54,315; DPS-Tinian, \$28,194; and the Law Revision Commission, \$131.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos earlier said over-expenditures in some areas were cushioned or offset by actual revenues that exceeded estimates.

Inos, who oversees government finances, will be one of two guest speakers at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's general membership meeting tomorrow wherein he is expected to discuss the government budget, plans to generate additional revenues, federal grants, and issues related to the Federal Insurance Contribution Act taxes, among other things.

OPA

From Page 1

Tewid and two other APIPA members, however, said a separate letter to management has been issued which offers suggestions for further strengthening the office's internal quality control system.

The two other APIPA team members that reviewed CNMI OPA were Yap acting public auditor Ronald Yow and Guam audit supervisor Rodalyn May G. Marquez.

"It was a privilege working with the staff of the Public Auditor's office, most especially Michael Pai, the Public

Auditor. Each member of Mr. Pai's office was most cooperative and helpful to the team and exemplifies the highest standards of the auditing profession," the APIPA team added.

The APIPA team said the management letter should be considered an integral part of the report, both of which now become public information and may be made accessible to any interested person. Copies of both the actual report and management letter have yet to be obtained from OPA as of yesterday.

The APIPA team added that the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs borne the expenses of the peer review.

'Higher contributions, payment deferrals will save Fund'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Increasing the amount of employer contributions and deferring payments to members starting this fiscal year could immediately save the NMI Retirement Fund's deteriorating condition, according to the pension agency.

In documents submitted to the Legislature, the Fund said that increasing the employee and employer contributions could result in an infusion of \$42.4 million that will help prolong the pension program's lifespan by eight years.

In its analysis provided to lawmakers, the Fund recommends 100 percent deferral of payments above a certain amount to reduce the pension drawdowns starting this fiscal year.

CRA: Executive order needed for Fund problems

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Retirees Association board chair Lorenzo Leon Guerrero-Cabrera will urge Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to issue an executive order that will help identify means to resuscitate the dying Commonwealth pension program.

A formal letter will be drafted, he said, with a specific request for Fitial to issue the executive order that will bring everyone concerned to the table to thresh out solutions to the Fund's condition. A board resolution with the same intention may also be endorsed.

"I will endorse [to the full board] maybe another solution...and I will submit a letter to the governor to strongly urge him to issue an executive order that would require the membership of the administration and the Legislature to work together to come up with a solution [to the Fund's problems]. With the recent hiring of Heinz Hofschneider as consultant for the board, I don't think he will be able to come up with everything unless everybody is on the same page," said Cabrera.

He disclosed that the endorsement of a new pension obligation bond for the Fund may be in the offing, which may get the full support of the association. The first bond attempt failed to secure enough votes in the last election.

Speaking in his personal capacity as a retiree, Cabrera expressed willingness to "make sacrifices" if this will help save the pension program, even if it means cutting his pension checks.

Based on Fund records, the pension program has 3,186 beneficiaries: retirees (2,414); surviving spouses (574); and surviving children (198). Total payouts amounted to \$63.1 million last fiscal year.

Cutting pension and benefit amounts across the board was

Under its projection, if the Fund withdraws \$53 million from its portfolio each fiscal year, the program's lifespan will only be until September 2014. If drawdowns go down to \$42.2 million a year, this will extend that to May 2015.

If payments are deferred and contributions are increased as recommended, and by capping drawdowns at only \$26.5 million a year, the Fund will live until May 2017. Dropping the annual drawdown to only \$10.6 million will further extend the Fund's lifespan to May 2025.

The Fund has an asset portfolio valued at only \$256.7 million as of Dec. 31. Because of a court order that requires the agency to set aside \$113 million for active government employees, this leaves only \$143.7 million that is available to pay for

members' benefits.

The lifespan of the pension program is projected to last less than three years, based on its current portfolio and with no new money expected to come into the Fund.

\$80.7M expenses

In fiscal year 2011, the Fund incurred a \$50-million shortfall, with expenditures amounting to \$80.7 million against only \$30.4 million in revenue. To balance this, some \$53 million was withdrawn from the Fund's investments to pay for pensions and benefits.

Documents obtained by the *Saipan Tribune* show that the bulk of the \$80.7 million spent last year went to benefit payments totaling to \$76.016 million: \$61.6 million for retirement/survivors' pension; \$1.4 million for disability

payments; \$67,361 for death lump sum payments; \$8,031 million for health and life insurance; \$130,246 for cost of living allowance; and \$4.6

million for refunds.

Additionally, the Fund spent \$3.1 million on professional fees, \$1.1 million on personnel expenses, and \$393,876 on other general and administrative costs.

Meantime, based on unau-

dated figures, revenue last fiscal year amounted to \$30.4 million, of which \$21.1 million came from employee and employer contributions. Employee contributions totaled \$8 million; employer contributions amounted to \$13.1 million.

Red Cross sets training schedule

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter will be conducting the Health & Safety training at its training room on Airport Road.

■ First Aid: Wednesday, Feb. 8, 6pm to 9pm

■ Adult CPR/AED: Thursday, Feb. 9, 6pm to 9pm

■ Pediatric CPR/AED: Saturday, Feb. 25, 8am to 11:30am

Pre-registration is required at least 24-hours prior to training date. A \$70 course-fee is required to participate in these trainings. Two-year certification cards are issued at end of training. Register by calling 1-800-REDCROSS or visiting www.redcross.org/training. For more information contact the local chapter at 234-3459. (ARC)

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MONETH G. DEPOSA

Commonwealth Retirees Association board chair Lorenzo LG. Cabrera discusses the current status of the pension program and his plan to urge Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to issue an executive order that will bring all parties to the same page to help save the NMI Retirement Fund.

among the measures identified to help save the Fund. Another option is putting off the payment of benefits to members to minimize and eventually avoid drawdowns from the Fund's investments.

According to Cabrera, once these measures are implemented, these will give the CNMI government the ability to float the pension obligation bond because the deferred payments and increased contributions will

be used to repay the bond.

He believes that the current 61 percent contribution rate being imposed by the Fund on the cash-trapped government is "too high."

"No way the CNMI government can pay the 60 percent rate. For me it's irresponsible to force the government to shell out that kind of money and just pay the Fund. How about the hospital [and] public safety?" said Cabrera.

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ORDER NOW!

Mariners urged to exercise caution in high surf conditions

The U.S. Coast Guard in Guam is warning boaters and beachgoers to exercise caution in all waters across Micronesia through the week. The National Weather Service has issued a high surf and small craft advisory for all coastal waters surrounding Guam, Rota, Tinian,

and Saipan.

Surf was predicted to build 7 to 9 feet in Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan yesterday but seas were expected to subside below hazardous levels by noon.

Despite the subsiding high surf, a Small Craft Advisory will be in effect for all the is-

lands through Thursday. Combined seas peaking near 10 feet can be expected throughout the week, making conditions exceptionally dangerous for small vessels and swimmers.

The National Weather Service recommends mariners operating small vessels should avoid

operating in these conditions. Mariners should only travel if necessary and check the current and forecasted weather conditions prior to getting underway. These conditions are especially hazardous when entering or leaving harbors and near inlets and reef lines.

Mariners should remain aware of changing conditions once on the water. Coast Guard Sector Guam advises mariners: If in doubt, don't go out!

Boaters are strongly encouraged to have a VHF marine radio on board to monitor weather conditions, communicate with other mariners and call for help in the event of an emergency. The Coast Guard reminds all mariners that channel 16 is the emergency

channel and is monitored around-the-clock.

In addition, marinas and local boaters are reminded to check that boats in port are properly secured, bilge pumps are functional, and all loose items are removed from decks. Report any boats adrift, pollution, or other maritime emergencies to the Coast Guard Sector Guam Command Center at 671-564-USCG. (USCG)

WHAT TO DO

Before you take to the water, Coast Sector Guam advises mariners to consider the following:

- Leave a float plan with a responsible individual who knows your intentions, location and who they should call if you do not return as scheduled.

- Always have flares and other visual distress signals on board. Inspect them regularly; they can save your life and help rescuers find you at night should you be in distress.

- $\frac{3}{4}$ Wear a Coast Guard-approved life jacket and set the

ON THE NET

- For safety equipment requirements based on the size and type of your vessel, visit: <http://www.uscgboating.org/>

- For local weather advisories: <http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/>

example for your passengers or paddling partners. Before getting underway, verify you have enough life jackets for everyone on board.

- Maintain awareness on the water—be aware of activity around your vessel including changing weather, and always know your location.

- Don't boat alone—boating alone is not recommended. Recreational paddlers canoeists and kayakers often travel with a single craft and one partner, or even solo, but it is recommended you canoe, kayak or boat with at least three people or two craft.

- Kayakers and paddlers are

highly encouraged to use the Paddle Smart Identification Sticker. In situations where a craft is found without its paddler, this sticker permits the Coast Guard to quickly identify who to contact. Get yours today from the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

- Know your limitations—be honest with yourself and your companions. Your life and the lives of those in your party may depend on how everyone understands each other's capabilities.

Source: U.S. Coast Guard

Flores eyes Interior's help to build ballfields

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores has sought the aid of the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs for his proposal to build baseball fields that will be used by visiting professional teams from Japan and Korea for pre-season training.

Flores said Friday that he has sent letters to Assistant Interior Secretary Tony Babauta and OIA Director Nick Pula informing them about the plan that he described as a "build-it-and-they-will-come" strategy.

"Our Commonwealth has the opportunity to lock in long term use of our sports facilities by professional sports teams, if such facilities were available right here on our island of Saipan," Flores wrote in his letter, a copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune*.

The mayor earlier wrote to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and other officials so that the government

could designate a public land in the northern part of the island "near the current off-road race-track and land field in Marpi," which he said is best for these ballfields.

Many professional teams from Japan and Korea have made the island their traditional pre-season training site.

Building the baseball fields would bring in more economic opportunities for the island since these professional teams have an entourage of family members, fans, and media.

Flores noted that he is looking for potential funding sources for the construction of the baseball fields. "We hope you and your office may be able to assist us in this regard, and guide us forward in applying for grants and other financial assistance to help us with the cost of constructions," said Flores in his letter to Interior.

Flores also plans to ask for financial assistance from CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan.

Japan golf mag visits Saipan resorts

Women's golf magazine *Regina* is bringing golf in the Marianas to the fore with a recent visit to Laolao Bay Golf Resort, Kingfisher Golf Resort, and several island hotels.

The high-class golf fashion magazine is distributed to 60,000 readers in Japan, largely ladies in their 20s and 30s who are beginning golfers. The feature on the Northern Marianas this spring will bring this beach resort destination over \$78,000 in exposure aimed directly at these upscale travelers.

"This is not *Regina* magazine's first visit to the Northern Marianas, so it's obvious there

is a continuing interest in our golf courses by their readers," said Marianas Visitors Authority marketing manager Bruce Bateman.

Stories in the magazine range from golf lessons, exercise, fashion, golfing goods and cosmetics. While on Saipan on Jan. 26-30, 2012, the magazine also covered other tourist attractions, including the Garapan Street Market, a trekking tour to Forbidden Island, Managaha, and Joeten Shopping Center. The article will also feature Mariana Resort & Spa, Hyatt Regency Saipan, and Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. (MVA)



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores and Rep. Rafael S. Demapan Jr. hand the donated basketballs to Laly 4 residents led by Ben Taitano last Friday.

Laly 4 basketball court back in business

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Residents of Laly 4 will now be able to use their basketball court once more.

The Saipan Mayor's Office has donated basketball boards and two basketballs while Rep. Rafael S. Demapan Jr. of Precinct II donated nets for the residents' use.

Staffers of the Saipan Mayor's Office installed the board and the nets Friday morning. The board was made from left-over lumber from the booths built for the 2010 Liberation Day festivities.

Mayor Donald G. Flores said he also plans to clear the vegetation in the area and install used

tin roofs to protect spectators from the intense heat of the sun or a heavy downpour.

Flores disclosed that village residents have been unable to use the facility for many months now due to the lack of boards and nets.

"I just want to see the residents of Laly 4 do something active," Flores told *Saipan Tribune*. "With the basketball boards and nets put into place, we can now promote health and wellness in this neighborhood."

Flores said his office is partnering with the residents to protect the facility. "They have to become responsible owners of this facility. Maintain it and don't let anyone vandalize it," he added.

Demapan, for his part, commended the mayor for his "speedy efforts" in ensuring that the Laly 4 basketball court becomes operational.

"It will greatly help not just the residents of Precinct II but even visitors from other villages who wish to come and play with our kids here," he said.

Demapan urged residents and visitors alike to park their vehicles in the designated parking spaces and not on the beach, to avoid damaging the precinct's coastal resources.

The lawmaker also urged the public to take ownership of and be responsible for the facility. "For anyone who comes in and use the facility, preserve it because they deserve it,"

said Demapan.

Village leader Ben Taitano underscored the importance of maintaining the basketball court. "We, the people of this village, really appreciate this donation. ... The kids in Laly 4 spend their late afternoon to early evening most of the days—practically every day here. This is where they spend their after-school hours," he said.

Taitano designated young resident Cil Teregeyo to be in charge of the basketballs since he lives near the court. He urged residents to take care of the area "because this is your place."

"If we don't take care of the place, it will be our own fault," he added.

The Mayor's Office also donated boards and basketballs for the Chalan Kanoa basketball court that same day.



MVA

A staff member from Japanese magazine *Regina* photographs at Joeten Shopping Center in preparation for an upcoming article on golf and other tourism attractions in the Northern Mariana Islands.

Companies invited to join PIC’s Race around the River this Sat.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Pacific Islands Club expects to boost its duck sales days before the 2012 Duck Race for Cancer.

“I am sure we will surpass that number this week as it is closer to the race. We always sell a lot as race day approaches,” Sports and Activities manager and race director Glenn Policare told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Duck Race for Cancer is PIC’s annual event where plastic ducks, sold for \$5 each, are raced along the hotel resort’s Lazy River, for the top prize of \$1,000. Proceeds from the event are donated to help fight cancer.

This year’s event, slated for Saturday, Feb. 11, at 6:30pm, is estimated yet again to draw hundreds of spectators.

Policare disclosed that they sold nearly 100 ducks at the Garapan Street Market last Thursday. “It was about as many as I expected to sell,” Policare said, adding that they will have another booth at the same site this week.

Saturday’s event will also feature the PIC Race Around the River, the corporate duck

race that will involve four heats of six swimmers who will make their way around the 800-meter lazy river with their own inflatable duck. All swimming gear will be provided by PIC.

The top two participants from each one-lap heat will get a slot into the final heat of eight. The winning team earns a team building night of Laser Tag plus two cases of drinks for up to 30 persons at PIC’s Laser Tag Park.

To date, Policare said Island Apparel, Coca-Cola/Foremost, The Law Offices of Robert Torres, Docomo Pacific, JC Tenorio, Marianas Health Services, Trench Tech, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Ken Corp., G4S, and Saipan Seventh-day Adventist Clinic will be vying for the corporate duck race grand prize.

Policare noted that only 24 companies will be allowed to enter the Race Around the River challenge.

“There are still 11 slots left,” he said. “I am confident the other slots will fill in by the weekend.”

To buy ducks or to join the Race Around the River challenge, call 234-7976 or email activitiesmanager@picsaipan.com.

Rotary to give away dictionaries to 3rd graders

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

About 800 third graders from public schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota will each be having their own dictionaries, thanks to the Rotary Club of Saipan.

Vocational Service director Kelley Butcher said via email that they bought over a thousand Webster’s Paperback Dictionaries for the third grade students of the Public School System.

Butcher said that the Rotary’s dictionary project this year is made possible with the assistance of the Rotary Club of Northern Guam in conjunction with the “SoCal Dictionary Project” from the Rotary Club of Pacific Basin out of San Diego.

Delta Air Lines also donated funding from their annual golf fundraiser and helped ship the dictionaries.

Butcher, who is also the legal counsel for PSS, said the project costs \$1,519.80, which covers both the dictionaries and labels.

Rotarians affixed the labels, which included the Rotary

4-way test and the Delta Air Lines logo, during their “labeling party” held at the Hard Rock Café. Meanwhile, DFS Galleria provided space to store the dictionaries until they are distributed.

“Our labels allow the children to write their names on the inside cover of the book,” added Butcher.

Butcher, who was among the Rotarians that gave away dictionaries to Rota students last year, said the project aims to give these students “not only the ability to have a reference book at their fingertips but also the joy of owning their very own book.”

“I have heard from teachers that when the students have a spelling lesson or if there is a time when kids need to look up words for definitions, it is nice that the kids have their very own books to use as a resource,” she told *Saipan Tribune*.

The schedule for the distribution of dictionaries will be announced in coming days.

The Rotary Club of Saipan first gave away dictionaries to public school students in 2011.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

KagES sets new class schedules

Effective Feb. 8, students’ classes will be from 8am to 2pm. Kindergarten AM session is from 8am to 10:30am; PM session is from 11:30am to 2pm. First to sixth grade is from 8am to 2pm. On Feb. 8, second quarter report card distribution to parents and guardians is from 1:30pm to 3:30pm. Students

will be released at 12pm. *(PR)*

MHS Class of 1983 meeting

This is to invite Marianas High School’s Class of 1983 to a general meeting this Friday, Feb. 10, 2012, at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion, Civic Center, Susupe. For more information, call Tonnei Camacho at 483-9665. *(PR)*



Position Vacancy Announcement

Position: Vice President/General Manager (1)
Qualifications: Must have 10 years experience managing full service 36 hole golf course, experience in developing and marketing and coordinating marketing strategies, knowledge of business management practices of golf course operation and hotel operation, assignment and projects for the golf course, maintain and grow membership and customer by promptly handling member and guest concerns and issues, ensure open communication and high visibility to members and guest by conducting daily walk through of the club, generate revenue by acting as sales manager for the entire golf club and resort, expand sales by initiating and monitoring effectiveness of monthly promotions, demand managements and demand creation strategies.

Position: Executive Chef (1)
Qualifications: Must have 5 years experienced and training in culinary cooking and have graduated from a Culinary School, accounts for the management and supervision of kitchen staff and cooks, provides a consistently high quality of food product services to guests and customers, ensure that meals are produced, presented and served to the highest possible standards, monitors materials, supplies and equipment needs, ensure staff uphold and maintain current standards of hygiene and safety, ensure the kitchen maintains a high level of sanitary conditions in a accordance with and all applicable laws, statutes, and policies, communicate with staff in order to facilitate and conduct a team approach, monitor food trend and incorporate new styles and ideas to fulfill customer demands and needs.

Position: Assistant Chef, Korean Cuisine (1)
Qualifications: Minimum of 3 years in the preparation of Korean food, will be involved in Korean menu development, inventory, ordering/purchasing, food cost control, training, personnel management such as coaching, complies to all applicable Sanitation Codes, ensure efficient, safe and sanitary food production, preparation, presentation and knowledgeable of Korean food trends with focus on quality, experience in large catering or banquet functions, excellent communication skills in Korean and basic English to understand and follow recipe, able to communicate on all levels, including management, departmental and customer.

Position: Chef de Partie (1)
Qualifications: 7 years of cooking experience and training, responsible for the creation of high quality dishes, able to work independently, cooks consistently and enthusiastically on a high level, helps create and cook to perfection seasonal and including a five course modern gourmet menu, small selection of signature a la carte dishes, cooks and prepares for each meal service, controls incoming goods and stores food, vegetables, fruits, staple in a perfect conditions, guest oriented and able to converse with the clients, actively attends wine and general trainings, team building events and supplier visits to learn about local product, has fun cooking, is a sociable person, likes to work as a teamwork, and respects and actively works with colleagues.

Position: Chief Cook (1)
Qualifications: Minimum of 5 years of experience and training, knowledge of standards of food preparation, serves, and observes kitchen procedures, experience in kitchen management, train kitchen staff, monitoring and assessing performance of the kitchen staff to make improvements or take corrective action, direct the preparation, seasoning, and cooking of food, determine how food should be presented and create decorative food displays, ensure timely delivery of services, estimate amounts and costs of required supplies, instruct cook and other kitchen staff in the preparation, cooking, garnishing and presentation of food, monitor sanitation practices to ensure that employees follow standards and regulations.

Position: Cook (6)
Qualifications: Minimum of 3 years of experience and training, prepares or directs preparation of foods according to prescribed menus and recipes, takes inventory of supplies on hand and orders food supplies, ingredients and other consumables on a schedules basis as determined by menu and estimated number of customers, cleans and sanitizes all food preparation equipment and ensures that it is kept in safe and operable condition, knowledge of methods, materials, and practices of volume food preparation, sanitary methods used in food preparation.

Position: Assistant Manager, Food & Beverage Department (1)
Qualifications: Must have 5 years of working experience and training, Must have supervisory experienced and training preferably in hotel and resort facilities, have experienced for all food and beverage services including banquet catering, bar/grill, dining restaurant, and outside beverage carts, must have cost control of all food and beverage outlets by helping in overseeing the purchasing of food, maintains effective inventory and shortage controls, work with the Executive Chef to develop an annual food and beverage plan and budget, ensure successful operation of special events, banquets, rentals, coordinates the delivery for all food and beverage service to the customer at the highest guest standard, supervise staff and operational during shift, ensure all of the services provided are immediate need of the customer, maintain and develop a dedicated team providing the highest quality of service and addresses all staffing issues in a fair and timely manner.

Position: Wait staff (Waiter&Waitress) (5)
Qualifications: 2 years experience and training, must have preferably worked at a hotel or tourism industry, ability to listen to and understand through spoken words and sentences, ability to arrange things or actions in a certain order or pattern, communicating with Supervisors, peers, or subordinates, handling and moving of objects, judging the qualities of things, services, or people, performing general physical activities, talking to others to convey information effectively, acting listening and service orientated.

Position: Kitchen Helper (1)
Qualifications: Must have 3 years of working experience, must be familiar with the dynamics of a professional kitchen is a plus, willingness to learn, time and space management skills, physical stamina, a friendly temperament, a desire to help out where needed and the ability to foster the creation and maintenance of a cohesive team, assist cooks, keep kitchen clean, perform a variety of food preparation task, assist with food and beverage service, receive and store supplies, sweeps and mops floors, segregates and removes trash and garbage and places, hoses out garbage container, washes pots, pans, trays by hand, scrapes food from dirty dishes and washes them by hand or place them in racks.

Position: Assistant Manager, Front Office (1)
Qualifications: Must have 2 years of experienced and training in the field of hotel and golf resort operation, must be organized, neat and professional appearance, pleasant, tactful and patient, able to communicate well with a wide variety of people, committed to providing good service, enjoyed dealing with people, ability to direct and control the activities of the Front Office, Reservations, deal with customer complaints, knowledge of a second language is a plus (write, read, and speak) computer literate with knowledge of a variety of computer software applications, and superior written and oral communications skills, ability to respond properly and take a supervisory role in any hotel emergency or safety situation.

Position: Korean Concierge (1)
Qualification: 3 years of experienced and training, must have worked in a hotel or tourism industry, communicate directly with guests, both in person and by telephone, provides information on facilities to Korean speaking guest at the golf & resort, provide information and services in Korean, must be able to offer the Korean guest in any number of special circumstances, good communication skills in Korean language is vitally important, provides all the information that the guest needs to enjoy their stay, good problem solving skills, good organizational skills, must be trained and experienced in tourism or hospitality managements, excellent customer service skills.

Position: Supervisor, Japan Sales & Marketing (2)
Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years experienced and training in marketing strategy for the Japanese market, must be fluent in the Japanese language as well as to read and write, experienced contacting and selling to Corporate level executives, experienced in Sales and Marketing most especially in the Japan markets,

built and managed a network of marketing and selling Hotel and Golf product and services, possess innovative business promotional and advertising activities, strong negotiating skills, knowledgeable of the Japanese customers needs, have strong demonstrations skills, must work with management team to create sales and marketing plans that includes to identify and target Japan Markets, identify potential Japanese clients.

Position: Supervisor Pro Shop (1)
Qualifications: Must have 3 years of supervisory experienced and training, able to lead, direct and motivate the sales team in order to achieve sales objectives, identifies appropriate business targets, provides a professional and excellent level of customer service with existing and new customers, supervises scheduled shift, completes all assigned duties, supervises sale associates, ensure that all employees adhere to company policies and procedures, knowledge of principles, techniques, and objectives of marketing, manages a sales program, knowledge of hotel management and philosophy.

Position: Sales Representative, Pro shop (1)
Qualifications: Must have 5 years of training and experienced in the field of golf operation, must maintain outstanding customer service, generating sales, merchandising, must be fully competent in selling, knowledgeable of cashing and receipt processing, knows how to operate a computerized point of sale cash receipts, inventory management system, ensure that each customer receives, ability to work varied hours/days, including nights, weekends and holidays as needed, must recognize security risks and thefts and know how to handle or prevent such situations.

Position: Front Desk Supervisor (2)
Qualifications: Minimum of 3 years of hospitality work, must have total understanding of all hotel front office procedures, know standard of cash handling, knowledge of computerized cash register systems, reservation system, must have experience in dealing directly with the public and acquired general knowledge of basic customer service skills, experienced and trained in the field of Front Office Operation, assist the Front Office Staff in handling customers in an efficient, gracious and professional manner and maintains a friendly, cheerful and courteous demeanor at all times.

Position: Front Desk Clerk (2)
Qualifications: Must have at least 2 year experienced and training in hotel hospitality or tourism industry, must have good communication skills, professional attitude and organization, enjoy working with people, experienced in customer services, sales, ability to use a computer, handles cash, experienced in administrative skills, ensure guests billing is correct, must assist in general maintenance and inventory of Front Office supplies, be courteous and efficient with customers.

Position: Front Desk Clerk, China/Korea Market (1)
Qualifications: Assist the front desk clerks in handling Korean and Chinese guests in an efficient, gracious and professional manner, responsible for the management, organization of the Front Office and related functions pertaining to the Korean and Chinese guests, respond and display a high degree of professionalism and integrity as well to a wide variety of people, enjoys dealing with people, computer literate with knowledge of a variety of computer software applications and superior Korean/Chinese written, and oral communication skills.

Position: Executive Housekeeping (1)
Qualifications: 7 years experience and training is required, must have worked preferably at a hotel, responsible for the smooth, efficient, cost effective operation of the Housekeeping Department, inventory control, works closely with Front Desk Assistant Manager to resolve all room discrepancies, possesses good knowledge of all matters relating to the proper administration of the House-keeping department, provides employee safety training to prevent accidents, maintains quality standards through inspection programs, follows and ensures compliance to all hotel control procedures by staff.

Position: Housekeeping (2)
Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years of experience and training cleaning hotel rooms, ensure clean, orderly attractive rooms in hotels, and must have training cleaning golf facilities, prepare a list of prospective check-outs, investigates complaints regarding housekeeping service and equipment, takes corrective action, operates various mechanized cleaning equipment, responsible for disposal of trash, waste and other disposable materials, conducts inventories to ensure adequate supplies, observe precautions required to protect hotel guests’ property, and report theft or found articles to supervisors.

Position: Chief Accountant (1)
Qualifications: must have bachelor’s degree in public or business administration, accounting, finance or related field, supplemented by 5 years progressively responsible experience in business accounting, ability to understand, follow and confer written and oral instructions, ability to effectively supervise a staff composed of entry and journey level professionals engaged in carrying out departmental functions, extensive knowledge of generally accepted standard accounting principles, established procedures, departmental guidelines and regulatory requirements.

Position: Accountant I (1)
Qualifications: Must have 5 years of experienced and training, and a college graduate in the field of accounting or related field, maintain general ledger accounting system, analyze accounts and prepare account adjustment as needed, assist with fixed asset and inventory systems and record-keeping, perform a variety of complex, professional level accounting functions, maintain confidentiality of payroll and other related records, ability to prepare clear, concise and comprehensive financial, statistical and narrative reports, and perform complex financial, statistical, budgetary cost analysis and ability to perform complex accounting duties related to assigned activities.

Position: Accountant (1)
Qualifications: 5 years work experience and knowledge of generally accepted accounting principles and procedures and budgetary principles, considerate knowledge of computers and their application in financial and accounting system, ability to prepare clear financial statement, establish tables of accounts and assign entries to proper accounts, use professional judgment, ability to plan, organize and meet rigid schedules and demanding timelines and seasonal workloads.

Position: Information Technology Technician (1)
Qualification: Must have 5 years of experienced and training and a college graduate in Computer science, responsible for installing, maintaining computer hardware, software, networks, have proficient knowledge in computer hardware and software systems and programs, computer networks, network administration and network installations, computer troubleshooting, team building skills, analytical and problem solving skills, decision making skills, effective verbal, presentation and listening communication skills, effective written communication skills, computer skills including the ability to operate graphics and website development programs at a highly proficient level, good time manage.

Position: Information Technology Assistant (1)
Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years of experience and training and must be a college graduate of computer applications and operating systems, PC hardware and trouble shooting, repair procedures, principles and practices of computer and telephone support services, computer hardware and software applications, familiar with information technology policies and procedures, computer operations processing and procedures, communicate clearly and easily with user and vendors of varying levels of technical expertise.

Position: Project Engineer/Facility Maintenance Manager (1)
Qualifications: 10 years of experienced and training, college graduate, is responsible to ensure that all LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort facilities are maintained in the highest of standards in their operation, assists in implementation and coordination of maintenance, repair, renovations of Company owned and leased facilities, monitors contractors compliance to standards for various Company buildings, conducts initial review and evaluates bids for compliance with specifications, report building maintenance needs, respond appropriately to emergencies or urgent issues as they arise, manage and supervise and coordinates the work of the staff and the work of contractors, communicate clearly and concisely, maintain adequate inventory, preventive maintenance and repairs of equipment.

Position: Supervisor, Electrician (1)
Qualifications: Have 7 years of training and experienced, and a college graduate, must have electrical trade qualifications, complies and adheres to the Occupational Safety and Health and Standards and practices, excellent communication and team building skills, must have computer systems skills, perform electrical work as required within their capabilities, maintaining a high standard of workmanship and abide by local statutes, performs skilled electrical installations, undertake modifications to plan & equipment repair electronic components of electrical equipment as required for continued operation, attend to production machinery breakdowns as required.

Position: Mechanic Engineer (1)
Qualifications: Must have 5 years of training and experienced, must have graduate degree, is responsible for all mechanical installations maintenance programs, stress analysis, piping, process plants layout and mechanical building services, responsible in power plant engines and generations, evaluates equipment performance and operating conditions, proficient in the planning and control of work in a multi project, deadline driven environment, deep and thorough understanding of applicable regulatory requirements and industry practices, assumes accountability for the quality of mechanical engineering work.

Position: HVAC Technician (1)
Qualifications: 7 years of experience and training, must have specialized knowledge to analyze and solve complex problems, continuous concentrated mental and visual effort to plan and perform complex work, strong physical exertion, responsibility for cost control, sustained high degree of attention required to prevent damage or waste, repair replace needs necessary to maintain equipment and systems, install heating, air conditioning, refrigeration systems and related equipment for the propose of providing comfort inside facilities, maintains tools.

Position: Building Maintenance (2)
Qualifications: Must have 3 years of working experience and training, must have standard maintenance skills and the ability to apply that knowledge safely in a structured environment, skill in operating maintenance and carpentry tools and equipments, activities and decisions, requires independent actions, judgment in solving common problems, must have tolerance for exposure to unpleasant elements, be able to positively interact with fellow workers, maintains and repairs a variety of building facilities and provides service for common mechanical, electrical, and building system devices.

Position: Assistant Manager, Recreation Facility Attendant (1)
Qualifications: Must have 5 years of experience and training in golf industry, must be able to communicate and supervise facility attendant employees, inspect golf equipment, structures, or materials, work with the public, assist others, monitor events, coordinates the work and activities of others, develop and build teamwork, knowledge of a second language is a plus, knowledge of the golf sport and rules is a must, generally work a flex schedule, often deal with unpleasant, angry or discourteous customers, work in a group or as part of a team, provide directions to customers, make sure that the customers follow golf etiquette and rules.

Position: Supervisor, Recreation Facility Attendant (1)
Qualifications: Must have 5 years experienced and training and working in a golf industry, must keep things running smoothly, provide information about and the services the Company provides, keep equipment in working order, explain how to use equipment safely, provide information about rules, record details of attendance, reservations, make sure that people follow rules, communicate and supervise facility attendant employees, must be pleasant, neat in appearance, must be punctual and reliable, ability to work well with the public is very important, knowledge of the golf sport, responsible for work outcomes and results of other attendants.

Position: Operations/Marshall (1)
Qualifications: Must have training and experience in the field of golf industry, must knowledge of the rules of the golf game is a must, ensures that an adequate pace of play is maintained, makes the golf game more enjoyable for everyone, enforces rules and regulations and control golf play on the golf course, enforces etiquette related to golf course usage, golf playing equipment and its recommended use, perform duties with significant independence, establish and maintain cooperative relationships with those in the course of the work.

Position: Supervisor, Landscape (1)
Qualifications: Must have 7 years of experience and training in the field of a golf course industry, must oversees the landscaping activities and supervises all landscaping personnel, work required judgment and initiative, planning, scheduling, organizing and directing work, training personnel, teaches and enforces safety regulations, monitors jobs both indoors and outdoors to ensure quality and compliance with job standards, performs duties of a landscaper, continuous concentrated mental and visual effort to plan and perform complex work, considerable external and or internal contacts to carry out responsibilities.

Position: Supervisor, Greens keeper (1)
Qualifications: Must have 7 years of training and experienced, must have worked preferably at a hotel and golf industry, establishes and maintain and repair programs for the golf course and the hotel, evaluates and determines the need for and scope of emergency repairs and supervises staff and contractors in performing work, establishes procedures governing employee and customer’s safety, perform grounds maintenance, perform preventive maintenance to the equipment, applies insecticides, herbicides and fertilizers maintains and operate irrigation system, experienced and knowledgeable in tractor operation and mowing.

Position: Greens keeper (14)
Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years experience and training, must have working knowledge at a golf course, knowledge of methods and materials used in grounds and landscaped area knowledge of and ability to use hand and power tools and equipment, ability to operate trucks, light motorized equipment, physical strength, stamina and agility, assists in the construction of new greens, tees, and fairways, lays sod, and seeds tees, greens and fairways.

Position: Nursery Workers (4)
Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years experience and training, must have working knowledge at a golf course, performs routine maintenance on equipment, move containerized shrubs, plants, greens, using wheelbarrows, carts, shovel or tractors, maintain grounds and landscaping, haul and spread topsoil, fertilizer, peat moss and other materials to condition soil, requires to be reliable, responsible, and dependable, pleasant to work with, displays good natured and cooperative attitude.

Position: Machinist (1)
Qualifications: 5 years of experience and training, must have overall knowledge working with machines, of machines, knowledge of a machine structure, performs routine maintenance on equipment, determine when and what kind of maintenance is needed, requires physical activities and considerable use of the arms, legs and moving your whole body.

Position: Fabricator & Assembler (1)
Qualifications: Must have 10 years of training and experience, must be able to fabricates, assembles, installs, and repairs sheet metal products and equipment on the basis of knowledge of system operation, may work with aluminum, galvanized steel, stainless steel, or other sheet metal stock, frequent to constant standing, walking throughout shift on all types of surfaces, maintains a safe work environment must be able to plan, organize, must be able to read and understand technical information, manuals, material safety data sheets, work order.

Position: Heavy Equipment Machinist (1)
Qualifications: Must have 5 years of training and experience, performs skilled tasks in the mechanical repair and maintenance of heavy trucks, earth moving, and related construction equipment including road graders, knowledge of hazards and safety precautions of the trade, operation and maintenance requirements of heavy duty construction equipment, work cooperatively with other employees, work safely without presenting a direct threat to self or others, performs incidental welding operations on equipment.

Position: Golf Cart Mechanic (1)
Qualification: high school diploma, 3 years technical training or experienced in mechanical, dismantle engines, using hand tools and examine parts for defects, test and inspect engines to determine malfunctions, to locate missing and broken parts, perform routine maintenance such as cleaning and oiling parts, honing cylinders and tuning ignition system, ability to demonstrate good judgment when dealing with guests or other personnel, able to lift/carry supplies or equipment with frequent reaching, stooping, bending, and kneeling, extensive walking and standing.

Drop off your resume at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort at the Front Office, Kagman Road.
May submit resume online at: mada@laolaobay.com
WE ACCEPT APPLICATIONS UP TO FEBRUARY 24, 2012.
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE
Saipan LauLau Development, Inc., dba LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
About 40 volunteers of PDM Promoters, Inc., including Saipan Awaodori Team members, parents, and guardians, pose for a group photo before the start of their cleanup on Feb. 4.

Saipan team readies for 5th Awaodori festival

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Young members the Saipan Awaodori Team are preparing for the 5th Saipan Awaodori Festival in April.

Sonia Siwa of PDM Promoters Inc., the non-profit group that handles the Saipan Awaodori Team, said yesterday that the group has already begun rehearsals for the festival, which is slated for April 19 at the Paseo

de Marianas in Garapan.

The team holds its practice at the Koblerville Youth Learning Center on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3:30pm to 5:30pm. About 10 new members are joining the 40-member team in this year's festival.

As members of the Saipan Awaodori Team, Siwa said the young dancers are encouraged to take part in community outreach activities, including the monthly cleanup of PDM Pro-

motors in the Garapan area.

Last Saturday, PDM Promoters did its cleanup for the month of February. About 40 volunteers, including some 30 Saipan Awaodori Team members, parents, and guardians, took part in the cleanup from 9am to 11am.

The cleanup covered Coral Tree Avenue to the Garapan fire station along Beach Road up to DFS Galleria. Siwa noted, though, that their cleanup was focused on removing debris left behind by

those that trimmed the shrubs on the road's center islands.

"We had to sweep those leaves so that they won't be blown by the wind, which could actually cause nuisance to motorists or passersby," Siwa explained.

The group collected 1,300 lbs of trash from the cleanup.

Siwa expressed her appreciation to the Division of Environmental Quality and D&Q for providing them with trash supplies and refreshments.

Appliance rebate program re-opens for limited time

The CNMI Energy Division announced Friday the re-opening of the State Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program to provide additional individuals residing on Saipan the opportunity to purchase qualified energy-efficient Energy Star rated appliances.

The re-opening is available for a limited time only so rebate vouchers will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis while rebate vouchers lasts.

Because rebate vouchers are limited, the CNMI Division of Energy, in partnership with participating retailers, will be hosting a one-day only sales promotional event on Saipan.

The program covers two types of qualified energy-efficient Energy Star rated appliances: Clothes washers and refrigerators.

The rebate amounts are as follows:

- 14 each, Clothes washers, \$500
- 13 each, Refrigerators, \$500

Staff from the CNMI Division of Energy Office will be available to assist individuals with applications. Applications must be completed and submitted along with required documents to the Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Office located next to the Coastal Resources Management office at Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai, Saipan.

To expedite the review and approval process, interested individuals are requested to provide the following documents:

- Copy of a valid CNMI ID
- Copies of most recent utilities

billing (3 months). If your name does not appear on the utility bill, you will be required to provide a signed utility consent form from the account holder (Forms are available at the EECBG Office or

may be downloaded from our website at www.cnmienergy.com.)

- Make and model number (s) of existing appliance (s)

Other information deemed necessary.

- A complete list of the required documents is provided in the application form.

■ For applicants leasing or renting a home/an apartment, you will be required to submit a Landlord/Tenant Certification form (Forms are available at the Energy Office or may be downloaded from our website at www.cnmienergy.com.)

Applications will become available at the EECBG office or may be downloaded from the official website at www.cnmienergy.com today, Feb. 7, 2012, and must be received by the Division of Energy no later than 4:30pm, the same day, Feb.

7, 2012. Applications will not be accepted after 4:30pm on Feb. 7, 2012, no exceptions.

Upon approval and issuance of rebate vouchers, recipients will be required to redeem the vouchers at any participating retailers below:

- ACE Hardware Store – Gualo Rai
- Pacific Home Appliance (Toshiba) – Garapan
- Taro Sue Store – China Town Area
- YCO Do It Best Store – Chalan Kiya

All rebate vouchers that remain unused or unredeemed after 4:30pm, Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2012, shall be considered null and void and will not be accepted for payment processing.

For more information, call the Energy Office at 664-4487/89/90. (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Feb. 7, 2000

Reduction in expenses exceeds revenue decline

Austerity measures put in place by the Tenorio Administration reaped good fruits as indicated by the sharp reduction in overall government expenditures that even exceeded contraction in revenues last year, a report from the Department of Finance said. Government revenues in 1999 dropped by about 20 percent compared with the previous year, while expenditures in three major areas had been reduced by an average of 66 percent. During the same period, the Executive Branch managed to push overtime expenses lower by at least 56 percent, travel spending by 73 percent, and expenditures for vehicle leases and purchase by 76 percent.

Lack of permanent AG hampers creation of homicide task force

Efforts to organize a homicide task force composed of the Department of Public Safety and the Attorney General's Office may be moving slow but DPS Commissioner Charles W. Ingram has given the assurance that he has not dropped the plan. The joint homicide task force with the Attorney General's Investigation Unit is expected to facilitate the solution of pending homicide cases. While logistics is one area which has hampered its organization, Mr. Ingram said the lack of a permanent Attorney General has somehow contributed to the problem. When it is finally organized, the Attorney General's Criminal Division expects an increase in case load. The division has already seen a nine percent jump in the number of cases it is handling from 1998 to 1999.

Feb. 7, 2001

Leaders meet to empower Pacific promise to CEDAW

Representatives of 14 Pacific Island nations will meet in Auckland next week for a sub-regional training workshop in support to the preparation of States Parties' Reports to be submitted to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. The workshop aims to increase the participants' awareness of and capacity to act in support of women's rights and the UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women, including obligations of ratification and reporting progress in their countries. The sub-regional training workshop is being jointly funded and organized by the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women, United Nations Development Program, and the Government of New Zealand with input from the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

\$4M funding for GHLI sought

Officials of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund sought anew the assistance of the Legislature to review other possible funding sources in hopes to settle over \$4 million debts to at least 295 on and off-island health service providers. Most of the Group Health and Life Insurance Program subscribers are being turned away by different service providers or are being asked to pay up front due to mounting medical bills the agency is yet to settle, program manager Dolores Moore disclosed yesterday. Records showed that the government-health insurance program has outstanding payable of \$2,995,486.48 to service providers in the Commonwealth, Guam, Hawaii, and the mainland US to date.

Feb. 7, 2002

Norman's oversight equates to fatter govt coffers

Since Dec. 24, Rep. Norman S. Palacios of Tinian has been running up a tab of \$100 a day and the amount has now reached a staggering \$4,500. Exactly 45 days after the Dec. 24 deadline set by the Commission on Elections, Palacios has yet to submit his election campaign expenses—an omission that would subject him to a penalty of \$100 a day, as provided in the 2001 Election Reform Act. With Palacios not expected to arrive from the U.S. mainland in the next two weeks, the penalty may yet go beyond the \$5,000-mark and could even reach \$6,000.

Court denies PSA motion to halt CPA, AIC alarm system contract

A Commonwealth judge denied a request by the Pacific Security Alarm to enjoin the Commonwealth Ports Authority and the AIC Marianas Inc. from executing a Saipan International Airport security access system project contract that was entered last October 3, 2001. Superior Court Associate Judge Robert C. Naraja, after reviewing the records, ruled that the CPA made "rational and logical decisions regarding the PSA's grounds for protest." The PSA, which finished second to the AIC in the lowest bid proposals, is protesting the CPA decision to award the project to the AIC.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings go out to Alvin Adriano, left, and Paul Martinez. A simple celebration, a gathering of friends; here is wishing you great happiness, a joy that never ends. Cheers! God bless! Greetings come from your Joeten Ace Hardware family!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy 16th birthday to Tita Danica Shane Chan! Smile and put on some make-ups cause it's your birthday! Whatever your dreams, whether big or small, may this year be the year in which you'll have them all fulfilled. Good health and God bless! Greetings come from your kullits niece and nephew, Queen Anne, Daphne, Keeno, and Louis.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



NOTICE OF PROPOSED LAND EXCHANGE

In accordance with Public Law 5-33, Section 4(b) (3) the Public Purpose Land Exchange Authorization Act, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to enter into an exchange agreement to certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the exchange of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 5-33, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

- i. The purposed of the land exchange is to acquire a private property for public purpose. The private property is described as TR 21897-4R/W, containing an area of 1,683 square meters, more or less, situated in Takpochao, Saipan.
- ii. The public land to be exchange is described as Lot 052 L 01, containing an area of 5,923 square meters more or less, located in Obyan, Saipan.
- iii. The private property is owned by Ms. Benedicta C. Tenorio a resident of Saipan.
- iv. A copy of the proposed land exchange agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan.
- v. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before February 29, 2012 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NOTISIA POT MAPROPONEN MA ´ATULAKAN TANO ´ PUBLIKU

Sigun gi halom I Lai Publiku 5-33 Seksiona 4 (b)(3), Public Purpose Land Exchange Act, I Depattamenton I Tano’ Publiku guini ha nã ´i notisia i intension-ña para u ma ´atulaikan pumalu na tano ´ publiku siha gi halom Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan Na Islan Marianas siha. Maseha hãyi manentiresão na petsona siha gi halom I publiku henerã siña munna ´hãlom infotmasion, opiñon, pat testimonion kinentra gi tinahguen i propositu siha para I uma ´atulaikan I tano ´ publiku. Komu mäs mapribeniyi ginen Lai Publiku 5-33, pettanesen infotmasion ni dinimãnda na para u mapuplika.

- i. I maproponen i ma ´atulaikan tano ´ para uma ´chule I tano ´ private para uson publiku. I diskripsion I tineteka na tano ´ komo TR 21897-4R/W, kinensisiste i âria 1,683 na dinankulon tano, potlumenus mäs, gaige giya Takpochao, Saipan.
- ii. I diskripsion i tano ´ publiku Lot 052 L 01, kinensisite i âria 5,923 square meters, potlumenus mã, gaige giya Obyan, Saipan.
- iii. I dwennon tano ´ si Sinora Benedicta C. Tenorio, residente Saipan.
- iv. I kopian a maproponen i ma ´atulaikan tano ´ siña machule ´ gi ofisinin Dipattamenton Tano ´ Publiku, gaige gi sigundo bibienda gi as Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan.
- v. I Secretarian i Depattamenton Tano ´ Publiku para hu aksepta I tinigi ´i opiñon, pat testimonion kinentra gi tinahguen i mapropone na ma ´atulakan tano ´ publiku antes osino gi dia Febreru 29, 2012 gi Depattamenton Tano ´.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL SIIWELIL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Alléghúl Toulap 5-33 Section 4 (b)(3), Bwulasiyool Ammwilil Falúweer Toulap ekki atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe siiwel eghús falúw mellól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Schóóka eyoor máfiyeer rebwe isisilong aghighiir, aweewe, aingiingi reel pomwol siiwel yeel. Alléghú Toulap ye 5-3 Section 4 (b)(3) e ayoora, lamal aweewe kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatééló.

- i. Pomwol siiwelil falúweer toulap nge ekki bwaári TR 21897-4R/W, eyoor ruwabwúghúw eliigh me eew (1,683 square meters), elapeló me ngäre eghús, elo Takpochao. Tilighial buley yeel nge, eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap ngäre óubwe ghuley fischey.
- ii. Falúweer toulap yeel nge Lot 052 L 01, eyoor ruwabwúghúw eliigh me eew 5,923 lapel falúw ye, elo Obyan, Seipél.
- iii. Ms. Benedicta C. Tenorio elollo , Seipél, yaal falúw ye ebwe siiwel ngale falúweer toulap.
- iv. Tilghial siiwel yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi mereel mwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building loll Tuturam, Seipel.
- v. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mángemáng, aingiingil mereel amweyút mmwal Määischigh 29, 2012, mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipé.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

- i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot No. 237 E 02, containing an area of approximately 5,751 square meters, more or less, situated in Lower Base, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.
- ii.The prospective lessee is Marianas Meat Harvesting Corporation. The Directors of the Corporation are Mr. Joseph Borja, Mr. Anthony Pellegrino, and Mr. Paul Zak.
- The Officers of the Corporation area Mr. Joseph Borja – President, Mr. Anthony Pellegrino – Treasurer, and Mr. Paul Zak – Secretary / Vice President.
- iii. The proposed lease was negotiated by Mr. Joseph Borja and Mr. Anthony Pellegrino.
- iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of developing and operating a USDA certified meat slaughtering facility and related activities.
- The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years. The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property.
- v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.
- vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Lower, Saipan.
- vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before February 14, 2012 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIA PUT MAPROPONIN ATKILON TĀNU' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106(b) gi Lain Publiku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tānu' Publiku guini ha nã'i nutisia ni intension-ña para u mana'ma'atkila pumalu na tānu' publiku siha giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas siha. Maseha hãyi na pattida siha gi halum i publiku henerât siña ha na'hålum i imfotmasion, opiñon, pat testamoñun kinentra siha gi tinahguin propositu siha ni para i atkilon tānu' publiku. Sigi mäs mo'na mapribeniyi ginin i Lain Publiku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesin imfotmasion ni madimãnda ni debi na u mapupblika.

- i. I maproponi na atkilon tānu' publiku ha diskribi kumu Lot No. 237 E 02, ni kinonsisti âria kâsi guaha 5,751 square meters, mäs pat menus, ni gaigi giya Lower Base, Saipan. I kopian i lugât gaigi gi pumalu na gumuaha gi Dipattamentun Tānu' Publiku siha ni para i rikunosimientu.
- ii.I manatkikila i Marianas Meat Harvesting Corporation . I Direktot i Corporation siha si Siñot Joseph Borja, Siñot Anthony Pellegrino, yan si Siñot Paul Zak.
- I Ufisiãlis siha gi ârian Corporation si Siñot Joseph Borja – Presidenti , si Siñot Anthony Pellegrino - i Tresureru, yan si Siñot Paul Zak - Sekritāriu /Sigundu Presidenti.
- iii. I maproponi na atkilon manigosiu gi as Siñot Joseph Borja yan Siñot Anthony Pellegrino.
- iv. I manatkikila debi na u usa i lugât solamienti para hinangai developing yan operating i fasilidât i USDA certified meat slaughtering yan i mana'achuli' na aktibidât siha.
- I teman i maproponi na kuntrātan atkilon sa' 25 āñus, yan option para u ma'ekstendi i atkilon gi ta'lu 15 āñus.
- I maproponi na āpas atkilon gi sakkan gi durāntin i tema sigun gi percentage gi appraised fair market value gi propiedât, ingklusu i prisenti na estroktura.
- v. Kopian i manmaproponi na kontrātan atkilon siña machuli' gi ufisinin i Dipattamentun Tānu' Publiku siha, gaigi gi sigundu bibienda 2nd floor gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; gi Songsong Village, Luta; pat i primet 1st bibienda gi Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.
- vi. I Dipattamentun Tanu' Publiku siha tãya' na ha risibi tinahguin propositu siha para sinuhetun atkilon tanu' publiku siha giya Lower Base, Saipan.
- vii.I Sekritāriun i Dipattamentun Tanu' Publiku siha debi na u aksepta i tinigi' i imfotmasion, opiñon yan testamoñun kinentra pat tinahguin propositu siha ginin i manggai interes na pattida siha gi pat āntis di Fibreru 14, 2012 gi ufisinin Dipattamentun Tānu' Publiku siha ni gaigi Saipan, Luta, pat Tinian.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tãlil ye 106(b) mellól Alléghul Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, ekki atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipel, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Schóókka remuschál emwal rebwe isisilong yaar mángemáng, data aweewe, me angiingi reel pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap. Sengi Alléghul Toulap ye 15-2, ewal ayoora, lamal aweewe kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatééló.

- i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap nge ekki bwaári Lot No. 237 E. 02, eyoor Limwoow Sangaras, Fisabwughúw limeigh me eew laapal(5,751 square meters) elapeló me ngäre eghús, elo Lower Base, Seipel. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap(Public Lands) ngäre óubwe ghuley fischiy.
- ii.Schéschéél schóól akkilón nge Marianas Meat Harvesting Corporation. Direkktoodol Corporation yel nge Mr. Joseph Borja, Mr. Anthony Pellegrino me Mr. Paul Zak.
- Schóól officers il Corporation yel nge Mr. Joseph Borja-President, Mr. Anthony Pellegrino-Treasurer, me Mr. Paul Zak-Secretary/Vice President
- iii. Schóól aweweey akkilon yel nge Mr. Joseph Borja me Mr. Anthony Pellegrino
- iv. Schóól akkilon ebwe yááyá falúw yeel rel ebwe ayoora me angaanga eew leliyal lil maal iye USDA certified me bwal akkaw mwóghutughut.
- Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge reweigh me limoow ráagh (25 years). Emmwel rebwe bwal sóóbwey ngáli seigh me limoow ráagh (15 years).
- Pomwol méél akkilon nge ebwe mwiril sáangi percentage il yaal appraised fair market value il falúw.
- v. Tilighial akkilon yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi merel bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llól Tuturam, Seipél; Songsong village, Luuta; me ngäre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.
- vi. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Lower Base, Seipél.
- vii. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughi ischil mángemáng, aingiingil merel amweyút mmwal Febreru 14, 2012 mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta, ngare Tchúlúyól.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

College costs too much

President Obama is right to put more pressure on colleges and universities as well as the states to make a college education more affordable.

A nation that keeps telling its children they need more than a high school diploma to succeed in this increasingly high-tech world shouldn't make it so hard for them to pay for college.

Obama wants to boost the Perkins federal loan program from \$1 billion to \$8 billion and change the formula for how the money is distributed. Colleges that fail to reduce costs will lose federal aid, an aggressive incentive for the schools to find practical ways to reduce the cost of an education.

The president's plan also calls for a \$1 billion grant competition that would reward states that keep college costs down. An additional \$55 million would be earmarked to help colleges find ways to increase their productivity.

The plan, which was well received by students at the University of Michigan, where Obama outlined the proposal in a speech last week, would reduce some student-loan interest rates, which have increased in recent years. It would also provide more work-study opportunities for students who need jobs to help them pay their college expenses.

Obama's approach will go a long way toward helping students from low-income families who value a college education but lack the financial resources to make it a reality. The sticker price of a college education, and the likelihood of being in debt for years, discourages many students from going to college. It is a major reason others never finish.

Under Obama's plan, colleges will be required to create a "scorecard" that provides information about a school's cost, its graduation rates, and the likely future earnings of its graduates. That type of practical information can help students make more informed decisions about which college to attend.

Important details, including exactly how Obama expects to pay for the plan when Congress is cutting spending, haven't been revealed. The proposal drew a tepid response from Republicans opposed to any new spending.

Colleges and universities have also expressed misgivings about some parts of the plan while acknowledging the value of others. Obama put them on notice that raising tuition can't be the sole answer to meeting their budgets. But with 40 states cutting education funding last year, he knows the schools need more help.

It shouldn't be so hard for the state legislatures or Congress to understand how much harm they are doing by failing to adequately fund education. They need to keep in mind the price tag for a poorly educated generation.

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TGIM Super Bowl

In the Jewish calendar, Sabbath is Saturday so Sunday is the first day of the week. The Gregorian calendar made Sunday the Sabbath, so Monday is the first day of the week. To many in the CNMI, this Super Bowl Monday culminates a football season, so Monday was the Sabbath of the pigskin faithful in the Commonwealth. TGIM—thank God it's Monday—is not an inappropriate exclamation in Chamolinia.

It is Sunday in Honolulu and with the sparse traffic on H-1 as many comfortably moved to their TVs, we had an excuse to attend 91-year-old Mom's Church. It was an eerie highway returning home as the lanes stayed relatively empty.

Speaking of the Super Bowl game, the language of competition permeates our lives in the West. Even student learning at SVES was a competition on who will receive the Commissioner's Award. Report card day determined mirth and gaiety on the day as parents come to see if their child, cowering in fear and trepidation, has the makings of a possible university candidate.

OK, a word from the line of scrimmage at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. New England Patriots vs. New York Giants was a contest of determination between two teams that met in 2008 when the Giants upended what would have been an undefeated season for the Patriots. The superstar repeat of Giant Eli Manning and Patriot Tom Brady at QB competing for passing excellence equaled two former Bill Parcells assistants, Tom Coughlin and Bill Belichick, signaling from the sidelines.

A country Western duo opened with *America the Beautiful* and Kelly Clarkson led the national anthem while Madonna belted her indomitable stage presence, "life is a mystery" for World Peace, at halftime. Clint Eastwood heralded firmly "Half-time in America" with Detroit heading back out to the world.

There was no shortage of wonder on this heralded clash of the titans. The Patriots closed the first half with a 10-9 lead over the Giants. Manning began the kickoff with 9 pass completions, but Brady responded with 14 pass completions and a 94-yard romp to a touchdown before the end of the first half. Brady again roared down the field at the start of the second half for another touchdown. Giants came back with two kicks to bring the game 15-17 Patriot's into the 4th quarter.

Our interest, however, goes beyond the gridiron; we are fascinated by the notion of the "first day of a week," and as TGIF used to mean gratitude for the end of a work week and the beginning of fun, we reverse the process and make TGIM the first fun-filled day of expenditure, welcomed and celebrated with innovation and creativity.

The cycle of a week since the industrial revolution has had five days focused on life support ventures while the weekends are crammed with social decision-making and meaning-giving endeavors. Not a bad design. Some monastics make two weeks out of seven days, and two days out of 24 hours, if only to dramatize that

By **JAIME VERGARA**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergara2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.



life cycles can be programmed and that life patterns are intentional rather than accidental.

Weekly time cycles are deeply rooted in cosmology and biology. The lunar calendar divides into four moons—new, full and the quarters, corresponding to the female menstrual cycle that mirrors the continuation of a race; a weekly cycle also measures the life of a cell that is birthed and recycled every seven days.

We watched CNMI young professionals wade through the doomed downside of a weekend binge that winds up with meth-withdrawal syndromes. It is time for a long awaited reversal of fortune. TGIM.

Much of our lives are surrendered to deterministic forces from the environment or of genetics. "Cause" is attributed to an external force that is either thanked or cursed. "Chance" is our romantic escape into the happy confluence of the right time at the right place, when/where we get lucky. The function of "choice" is often left to the few who are capable of surfing the Waimea waves of their soul and destiny.

The Super Bowl is an exercise in intentionality. Players visualize what the downs will be, design a method of seamless execution, and get members of a team to do their assigned functions. There are no squabbles over roles. There is singularity of purpose—the team and the game, the ship and the storm.

The game came down the wire. Manning marched to two field goals before unleashing his magic. Coaching strategies were brilliant, and the game was determined in a Brady "Hail Mary" play in the last five seconds of the game.

That we have turned it into gladiatorial display of combatants and a nation of couch potatoes does not negate the fact that the Super Bowl of our lives occur daily and it is a matter of choice whether we are in the game with pleasurable discipline and measured intentionality, or whether we rely on the paid actors to entertain us in our chosen passive roles as we cheer or whine in the sidelines.

In economics we are subservient employees, in politics we are recipients of the dole, novena tables, and others' bidding, and in culture we insist on the right to chew betel nut. Super Bowl declares in big and bold letters that there is more to life than that.

So TGIM, it is. Let's hope your Super Bowl lasts the whole year!

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Automatic parole extension: For some but not all

In our last column, we discussed the uncertainty in the community regarding the Jan. 31, 2012, expiration of parole in place for many foreigners in the CNMI. This group includes people with pending CW permits and their dependents, people with various other types of pending non-immigrant employment based visas, and persons who were granted parole in place for humanitarian reasons. Some of these persons will be granted automatic extensions of their parole and others must apply for an extension in order to maintain status.

On Jan. 30, 2012, one day before the expiration of many current paroles in place, USCIS posted on its website guidance as to how this will all work. You may want to check it out for yourself at <http://tinyurl.com/3dndfyb>.

Who is eligible for automatic parole extension?

To be granted automatic parole extension, a person must meet all three of the following criteria:

1. Parole in place expires Jan. 31, 2012 (please check your I-94 to see your parole expiration date);
2. Applied for parole in place after October 2011; and
3. Has one of the following applications pending:
 - I-129 (for a variety of employment or investment based status, such as, E-1, E-2, E-2C, L-1, H-1, F-1, or R-1)
 - I-129 CW (for CW-1 foreign workers)
 - I-539 (for dependents of CW1 and other dependents of employment based status, see above).

If you meet all three conditions, your parole is automatically extended to Sept. 30, 2012. In other words, you do not need to do anything to preserve your legal presence in the CNMI. By Sept. 30, your pending application will either be approved or denied. If it is approved, you will no longer need parole in place to maintain legal

status. Your legal status will be whatever petition that is approved: CW worker, E-2 investor and so forth. If your application is denied, your parole will likely be revoked.

Who is eligible for parole extension by request?

If you have an expired parole in place, but you don't meet the automatic extension criteria, you may request an extension. Please remember that all parole requests, including extensions, are adjudicated case by case on the basis of individual merit. So, just because you are eligible does not guarantee that your request will be approved. You need to clearly state your reason that you need the extension and the hardship it will cause if you are refused. Don't forget to attach all required documents and relevant evidence.

If you never had a parole, parole extension is not available to you; after all, you can't extend what you never had. If you are a Russian or Chinese visitor, admitted to the CNMI under a special provision of the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver program, you are likewise not eligible. Terms of parole granted under this limited provision are strictly construed and overstayers are subject to summary removal.

How to apply for extension of parole in place?

First of all, please note that there is no filing fee for a parole extension. In order to make the request, you need to submit the following:

- A letter or affidavit signed by you, requesting the extension. Include your complete P.O. Box mailing address and telephone number
- A copy of a valid identity document, such as your passport biographic page (with photo, date of birth, and expiration date)
- A copy of your I-94 (front and back)
- A copy of your umbrella permit (if you have one)
- A letter from your employer verifying his or her intention to

the one area where Mr Hannemann felt the CNMI was making good progress, planning and zoning, is the one area we now want to destroy. Some of the replies and feedback collected by MVA, which are considered crucial to the tourism industry, are cleanliness, good memories, and especially a beautiful environment. Sound zoning and planning plays an important role in achieving these goals.

Governor Fitial, I'm sure you realize this bill is not in Saipan's best interest, and I think that if given a true understanding of what was before them a majority of the Saipan delegation would not have approved it. The Zoning board members, past and present, along with the Zoning Office staff, have devoted a tremendous amount of their time in an effort to improve the quality of life and economic future of Saipan. This bill is a slap in the face to all of them. I hope you will do what you know is right and veto it.

Herminia Matsumoto Fusco

Capital Hill, Saipan

Time capsule

The pomp and circumstance of the Saipan Leadership Memorial Kiosko is well underway. Aside from adorning the walls of this kiosko with the names of heralded leaders of the CNMI over the course of time, it would be an important milestone also for those who are spearheading this project to have a space within the project perimeter reserved for a "time capsule" of some sort that will store and preserve special artifacts and mementos of modern day CNMI. The stored materials in this preserved space would be an excursion in time about the indigenous people, signifying what it was a century then. The "time capsule" will be designed to sustain all possible situations for that 100-year time frame.

If the indigenous people of these islands today follow a path leading to their own extinction, this "time capsule" would bear witness as a reminder to those living in the Mariana islands a century from now that these islands were once the home of Chamorro and Carolinian people who were the indigenous people that lived on these islands. This "time capsule" will give present day indigenous people the time and space to understand that these islands should be protected for all people who recognize their past as Chamorro and Carolinian people who were the true indigenous people, and their descendants should uphold a strong resistance to minimize the intrusion by outsiders.

This will be viewed as "selfish" but it is through this attachment with ancestral influences that I would keep my identity and ward off any contravening forces that may overcome what and who I am as an indigenous Chamorro or Carolinian descendant of these islands.

Francisco R. Agulto

Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

IMMIGRATION FORUM

By **MAYA KARA** and **BRUCE MAILMAN**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Maya Kara is a native of Hungary and comes to the practice of law by way of her interest in Asian history. Bruce Mailman is a native of Bakersfield, California and was a private investigator in California prior to becoming a lawyer. Both have lived and practiced law in the CNMI for over 20 years, Maya in government service and Bruce in private practice. They are married and are partners in the law firm of Mailman & Kara, LLC in Garapan, Saipan.

continue your employment (if currently employed)

Put all of the above material in an envelope and write legibly (marking pen recommended) on the envelope: your name, the date of your parole expiration, and the phrase "PAROLE EXTENSION."

If you live on Saipan, drop your parole extension request at the ASC at TSL Plaza on Beach Road. If you live on Rota or Tinian, please mail your request to:

DHS-USCIS
Sirena Plaza, Suite 100
108 Hernan Cortez Avenue
Hagatna, Guam 96910
ATTN: PAROLE EXTENSION – CNMI

What does parole extension not do?

Parole extension extends the length of your legal status in the CNMI but it does not extend the length of your work authorization. You need to keep both your status and your work authorization current if you are to remain and work in the CNMI. However, CW applicants do not need work authorization, because they are deemed authorized to work until a decision is made on their application. However, applicants for any other employment based status, who have parole based on their pending applications, must keep their employment authorization current as do holders of humanitarian parole.

Parole extension is also inapplicable to travel related paroles such as advance parole (to return from a foreign country) and transit paroles (through Guam airport). These types of paroles expire on their expiration date. To renew, you must make a new application and pay a new filing fee, if applicable.

TRANSIT PAROLE TRAVEL WARNING

We've been hearing lots of stories of people with travel plans that will take them through Guam. Everything is fine until they get to the Saipan International Airport for their flight, and the airline won't board them because they have not gotten permission (called transit parole) to travel through Guam. At the very least, this is an inconvenience, but often it is much worse, resulting in missed appointments, and even lost airfares if their tickets are not refundable, or travel on those tickets cannot be rescheduled.

Understandably, when this happens people become very unhappy. They blame the airline, the travel agent, the federal government and even, in one recent case, their attorneys.

We have said this before in this column, but from everything we are hearing we need to say it again, and will probably have to repeat it yet again sometime soon: if you are an alien without a U.S. visa, or with a visa or status restricted to the CNMI only, and you have travel plans that require you to transit through any U.S. checkpoint, you MUST obtain transit parole before traveling. This applies to every alien traveling through Guam or any other part of the U.S. for whatever reason—and that includes people on their way to a U.S. consulate abroad for their visa interviews.

So if you are planning to travel, pay attention to your travel route. If you are going through Guam, or Honolulu, or any other part of the U.S., be sure to get permission from USCIS first. You can apply for transit parole through the Saipan ASC or the Guam Field Office, in the same way that you can apply for parole extension. Otherwise, you should plan your trip to avoid the need for transit parole. You can go to Manila, for example, by going through either Japan or Korea—it may be a longer trip, or a bit more expensive, but may involve less hassle.

The information contained in this column is intended as general information only, and not as individual legal advice. Readers should obtain professional legal advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding federalization or immigration issues to the authors by email to lex-marianas@pticom.com. Readers may also e-mail written questions through the Saipan Tribune at editor@saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

Kill the bill!

Dear Governor Fitial: I am writing to implore you to veto House Local Bill 17-26 S2, which included the seven pages of verbiage of Rep. Stanley Torres' floor amendment to the proposed Saipan Zoning Law. This House local bill was passed by the Saipan Northern Islands Local Delegation on Jan. 31, 2012. The end result of this amendment will be to effectively kill zoning on Saipan, which is obviously the author's intent. This amendment makes a mockery of our legislative process; I do not believe any member who voted for it fully understood what the end result would be. In fact, I do not believe any member even took the time or had the opportunity to cross-check the seven pages of the amendment with the actual law in an effort to really understand what they were amending. It is unconscionable that an amendment of this magnitude would be passed with virtually no debate or consideration of the public and business community's comments. What needed to be passed was only the proposed text amendments as recommended by the Zoning board.

Governor, I know you understand the value of planning and zoning for our island. I know you spent several years on the first Zoning board, including a lengthy tenure as chairman, back in the early '90s before zoning was suspended. Since that time we have had 20 more years of unplanned haphazard development. Possibly the only positive benefit of our current economic situation is that we have a chance to look at our mistakes of the past and plan for a better future. I cannot conceive of why we would want to throw this opportunity away. House Local Bill 17-26 S2 will drastically change the future landscape of the island of Saipan and has far reaching ramifications affecting property values and the quality of life of all residents and visitors. We will basically go back to the anything-goes thinking of the past. In July we will have a new airline starting up, which will hopefully help to revive our dying tourist industry. I wish them well, but personally I think their efforts will be wasted if we do not make a good faith effort to clean up their customer's destination.

Back in October 2011, the Marianas Visitors Authority, while developing the CNMI Tourism Master Plan for 2012-2016, conducted surveys with visiting tourists and also hosted experts in the tourism field. I don't think anyone can deny that the CNMI can learn much from the State of Hawaii in regards to developing a tourism industry. Former Honolulu mayor Mufi Hannemann offered the following observation: "You cannot base tourism decisions on fear. If you do that you will never do what is right. You have to make unpopular decisions in anticipation of a problem." Mr. Hannemann went on to identify four components that any government has to put into place to achieve its tourism goals: public safety, infrastructure, adequate funding for promotions, and planning and zoning. It is ironic that

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲85 ▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85 ▼80
Kosrae	Showers	▲85 ▼80
Majuro	Showers	▲85 ▼79

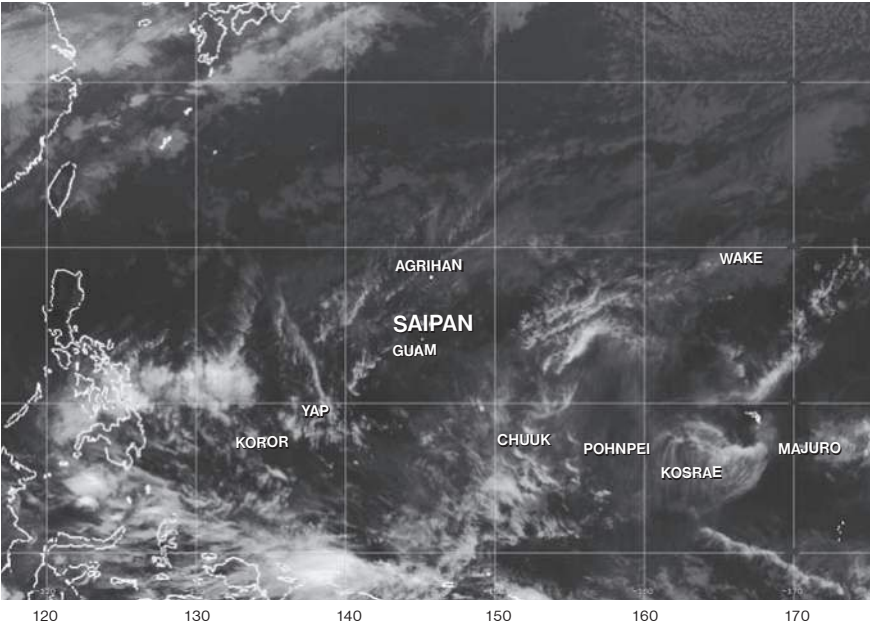
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲72 ▼61
Beijing	Sunny	▲37 ▼16
Hong Kong	Showers	▲56 ▼53
Honolulu	Showers	▲79 ▼67
London	Partly Cloudy	▲33 ▼29
Los Angeles	Rain	▲59 ▼48
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲87 ▼74
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲70 ▼55
Miami	Thundershowers	▲81 ▼68
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲51 ▼32
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲42 ▼33
Paris	Sunny	▲25 ▼16
Pusan	Snow	▲40 ▼20
Rome	Showers	▲43 ▼30
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲56 ▼39
San Francisco	Rain	▲55 ▼46
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲26 ▼13
Tokyo	Showers	▲44 ▼31
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲53 ▼38

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
1:18 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
8:07 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
1:40 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
6:49 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A nearly stationary front extends southwestward from north of Wake Island at 25N171E to near 20N155E then continues as a shear line just north of Saipan to end near 15N136E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 150 miles northwest of this boundary. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms northwest of Koror west of a line from 13N135E to 9N135E and near Chuuk between 3N and 8N from 150E to 158E. A surface trough just east of Majuro extends northward from 2N175E to 7N174E. Scattered showers are found east of Majuro east of a line from 5N171E to 9N171E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:45 AM	6:17 PM
Wednesday	6:45 AM	6:18 PM
Thursday	6:44 AM	6:18 PM
Friday	6:44 AM	6:19 PM
Saturday	6:44 AM	6:19 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:42 PM	5:48 AM
Wednesday	6:38 PM	6:34 AM
Thursday	7:35 PM	7:19 AM
Friday	8:32 PM	8:03 AM
Saturday	9:30 PM	8:48 AM

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
■ **CAMPUS BULLETIN** Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- For pictures:**
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 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
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■ Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) C05062 2:10am 2:40am 1, 5	ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) C05064 5:15am 5:45am 1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP) C05064 4:15am 4:50am 1, 5	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN) C05062 3:10am 3:45am 1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) C05064 4:15am 5:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05068 8:25am 9:15am Daily C05074 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05076 3:10pm 4:00pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 6:50pm 7:40pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 7:00pm 7:50pm 3, 6 C05072 9:55pm 10:45pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05072 10:05pm 10:55pm 3, 6	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN C05062 2:10am 3:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05071 7:00am 7:50am Daily C05073 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05075 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:30pm 6:20pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:40pm 6:30pm 3, 6 C05079 8:35pm 9:25pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05079 8:45pm 9:35pm 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL285 6:35am 9:15am 1, 3, 5, 7 DL297 4:25pm 7:15pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily DL286 7:40pm 12:20am+1 2, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:35am 7:05am 4, 7 DL581 4:10am 7:30am 1, 5	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 6 DL580 10:10pm 2:55am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05070/191 4:35am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT C05068/183 8:25am 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05068/183 8:25am 9:40pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:40pm 1, 4, 7 via GUM C05076/193 3:10pm 11:00pm 2, 5 via GUM-Palau OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN C05072/PR111 9:55pm 7:50am+1 1, 5, 7 via GUM C05072/PR111 10:05pm 7:50am+1 3, 6 via GUM	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN DL172/288 8:00am 1:15am+1 Daily via NRT C0190/5077 10:55am 6:30pm 3, 6 via GUM C0190/5079 10:55am 9:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C05071 10:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM C0192/5071 10:25pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM-Palau C0184/5071 11:10pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ704/603 11:40pm 2:20pm Daily via ICN C0184/5071 11:59pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 12:00pm 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 12:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05076/147 3:10pm 10:25pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/723 3:20pm 10:30pm Daily via ICN OZ604/749 3:20pm 10:50pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ724/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ750/603 1:00am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0180/5071 11:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana	
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)	

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 100	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 200	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily				
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

China bars its airlines from paying EU carbon tax

BEIJING (AP)—China announced Monday it will prohibit its airlines from paying European Union charges on carbon emissions, ratcheting up a global dispute over the cost of combatting climate change.

The charges are aimed at curbing emissions of climate-changing gases but governments including China, the United States and Russia oppose them. The ratings agency Fitch warned in December the conflict could spiral into a global trade dispute.

The Chinese air regulator said China's carriers are barred from paying the charges or other fees without government permission, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. It said Beijing will consider unspecified mea-

sures in response to protect Chinese companies.

There was no indication there would be any immediate impact on flights between China and Europe or penalties for Chinese airlines. The charges took effect in January but money will not be collected until next year.

The dispute highlights Beijing's complicated status in global climate efforts.

China is the biggest source of climate-changing gases but as a developing country is exempt from Kyoto Protocol emission limits. Owners of Chinese power plants and factories have received billions of dollars from a European system that pays developing countries to curb emissions but Beijing has resisted binding limits.

Under the European system, airlines flying to or from Europe must obtain certificates for carbon dioxide emissions. They will get free credits to cover most flights this year but must buy or trade for credits to cover the rest.

"China objects to the EU's decision to impose the scheme on non-EU airlines," Xinhua quoted a statement by the Civil Aviation Administration of China as saying.

The European Union ambassador to Beijing, Markus Ederer, defended the charges as consistent with Europe's efforts to be a "green leader" in curbing climate change and said they treat European and foreign carriers equally.

Ederer said it was too early

to consider questions such as whether Chinese carriers might be compelled to pay. He said EU regulations include a provision to exempt carriers from countries with "equivalent measures" to curb carbon emissions.

"We are ready to engage in a discussion on recognizing

the equivalent measures which would then exempt those airlines of those countries from the necessary dues that would have to be paid," he said at a previously scheduled news conference on EU relations with China.

Ederer said that with free credits taken into account, the

added cost per passenger on a flight from Beijing to Brussels, the EU capital, would be 17.50 yuan or 1.90 euros (\$2.70).

"I leave it to you to make a judgment on whether this is too much for saving the Earth, combating climate change and making headway together," he said.

Bigger US role against companies' cyberthreats?

WASHINGTON (AP)—A developing Senate plan that would bolster the government's ability to regulate the computer security of companies that run critical industries is drawing strong opposition from businesses that say it goes too far and security experts who believe it should have even more teeth.

Legislation set to come out in the days ahead is intended to ensure that computer systems running power plants and other essential parts of the country's infrastructure are protected from hackers, terrorists or other criminals. The Department of Homeland Security, with input from businesses, would select which companies to regulate; the agency would have the power to require better computer security, according to officials who described the bill. They spoke on condition of anonymity because lawmakers have not finalized all the details.

Those are the most contentious parts of legislation designed to boost cybersecurity

against the constant attacks that target U.S. government, corporate and personal computer networks and accounts. Authorities are increasingly worried that cybercriminals are trying to take over systems that control the inner workings of water, electrical, nuclear or other power plants.

That was the case with the Stuxnet computer worm, which targeted Iran's nuclear program in 2010, infecting laptops at the Bushehr nuclear power plant.

As much as 85 percent of America's critical infrastructure is owned and operated by private companies

The emerging proposal isn't sitting well with those who believe it gives Homeland Security too much power and those who think it's too watered down to achieve real security improvements.

One issue under debate is how the bill narrowly limits the industries that would be subject to regulation.

Summaries of the bill re-

fer to companies with systems "whose disruption could result in the interruption of life-sustaining services, catastrophic economic damage or severe degradation of national security capabilities."

Critics suggest that such limits may make it too difficult for the government to regulate those who need it.

There are sharp disagreements over whether Homeland Security is the right department to enforce the rules and whether it can handle the new responsibilities. U.S. officials familiar with the debate said the department would move gradually, taking on higher priority industries first.

"The debate taking place in Congress is not whether the government should protect the American people from catastrophic harms caused by cyberattacks on critical infrastructure, but which entity can do that most effectively," said Jacob Olcott, a senior cybersecurity expert at Good Harbor Consulting.

Super Bowl ads battle for championship



AP

This advertisement provided by Century 21, shows a scene from the ad "Smarter, Bolder, Faster," with a Century 21 saleswoman and NFL analyst Deion Sanders.

NEW YORK (AP)—Forget the battle between the Giants and the Pats. The real Super Bowl showdown is between advertisers.

The Super Bowl is advertising's biggest stage and companies spent an average of \$3.5 million for 30-second commercials for the right to duke it out during Sunday's game. This year's ads use celebrities, nostalgia and sex appeal to draw in the 111 million-plus viewers who are expected to tune in.

"Viewers challenge the corporate community—can you really entertain me on Sunday?" says Bob Horowitz, executive producer of the annual CBS "Super Bowl's Greatest Commercials" show. "The bar is high but I believe the creative is stepping it up a notch this year."

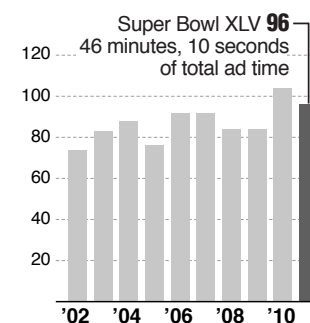
In the first quarter, automakers dominated. Audi's ad features its bright LED headlights disrupting a vampire party. Meanwhile, Chevy's Silverado ad baits rival Ford in a doomsday scenario. Chevy Silverado drivers survive the end of the world, it seems, but a Ford driver didn't make it. And Hyundai's ad goes for laughs, showing a cheetah that's meant to race a Hyundai turns on a bystander instead.

Other first-quarter highlights include a Best Buy ad that shows the inventors of things like the camera phone. M&M's ad features a "nude" M&M who took off his colored shell at a party. And Pepsi has several stars in its ad, including Elton John starring as a king.

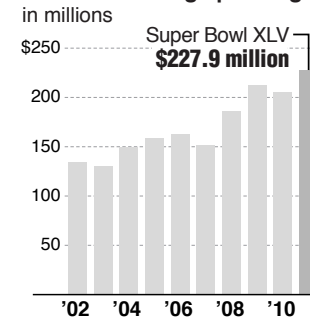
Here are some other ad high-

Super spending

Number of commercials per Super Bowl



Total advertising spending in millions



Source: Nielsen, Kantar
Graphic: Chicago Tribune © 2012 MCT

lights to look out for during the remainder of the game:

Sex sells

Several advertisers decided to use scantily-clad people in their ads to draw attention.

Clothing retailer H&M's ad shows soccer star David Beckham in his underwear.

Online florist Teleflora and automaker Kia both use Victoria Secret's model Adriana Lima.

And Toyota's ad, which depicts "reinvented" objects in the style of its "reinvented" Camry, features a "reinvented" couch made up of women wearing bikinis. "It also comes in male," a voiceover in the ad says while showing a couch of

shirtless men.

Star power

Celebrities always draw attention, a fact Super Bowl advertisers continue to use to their advantage.

Chrysler, one of nine automakers advertising during the game, is airing a two-minute Super Bowl ad that stars Clint Eastwood. The aging actor talks about the rebirth of Chrysler and Detroit. This follows the company's ad last year that starred rapper Eminem.

And real-estate company Century 21's ad shows that a real estate agent is able to outdo speed skater Apolo Ohno on the ice, business mogul Donald Trump in business and former football player Deion Sanders at an open house.

Nostalgia Factor

Some advertisers are attempting to appeal to viewers by stirring up old memories.

Honda's ad for its compact sports-utility vehicle CR-V shows actor Matthew Broderick living a grown-up version of his 1986 hit movie "Ferris Bueller's Day Off." The ad includes two dozen references to "Ferris Bueller's Day off."

Likewise, an Acura NSX ad features 1990s comedic titan Jerry Seinfeld battling with late-night talk show host Jay Leno over the sportscar. The ad includes Seinfeld references like a cameo by the "Soup Nazi" character.

Dannon went for fans of 1990s hit TV show "Full House" by featuring one of its stars, John Stamos, in an ad to tout its Oikos Greek yogurt.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

ALBA countries to pool funds in joint bank

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—An eight-nation bloc of Latin American and Caribbean countries agreed on Sunday to deposit 1 percent of their international reserves into a jointly administered development bank as they seek to deepen economic cooperation. Officials announced the decision as Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez hosted leaders of the Bolivarian Alliance bloc, or ALBA, at a meeting in Caracas. The countries that have agreed to deposit 1 percent of their international reserves in the ALBA Bank include members Cuba, Ecuador, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Oil near \$97 amid signs US economy improving

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices fell slightly to near \$97 a barrel Monday in Asia despite signs U.S. economic growth is improving. Benchmark crude for March delivery was down 39 cents at \$97.45 a

barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose \$1.48 to settle at \$97.84 on Friday. Brent crude was down 10 cents at \$114.51 a barrel on the ICE Futures Exchange in London.

Greek crisis talks for debt deal pushed to Monday

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Crisis talks on a debt deal for Greece among the three leaders of parties supporting the coalition government were suspended and will continue Monday. Greece is racing to finalize austerity reforms needed for a new euro130 billion (\$171 billion) bailout without which it would face bankruptcy in late March. But in a country deep in recession, with unemployment at 19 percent, many politicians and unions oppose more austerity measures. The three party leaders held a five-hour meeting late Sunday with Prime Minister Lucas Papademos to hammer out a deal with debt inspectors representing eurozone countries and the International Monetary Fund, but failed to reach an agreement.

Nation

Fire kills husband of missing Utah woman, 2 boys

GRAHAM, Wash. (AP)—Josh Powell's note was simple and short, a farewell to the world after two years of being scrutinized in the media, hammered by police and questioned by judges, prosecutors and social workers, living his life under a microscope since the day his wife vanished.

"I'm sorry, goodbye," Powell wrote in an email to his attorney just minutes before authorities say he set fire to his home, killing himself and his two young sons days after he was denied

custody and ordered to undergo a psycho-sexual evaluation.

The Sunday blaze at Powell's home brought yet another twist in the very public scandal that began when Susan Powell vanished in 2009. The case had since spiraled into a salacious saga of finger-pointing and accusations of sex and lies—and now the unthinkable loss of two young lives caught in the crossfire.

A social worker brought the two boys to Josh Powell's home Sunday for what was to be a

supervised visit. They rushed toward the home, leaving the social worker behind. By the time she got to the door, Powell had let his sons in but locked her out, Graham Fire and Rescue Chief Gary Franz told The Associated Press.

The social worker called her supervisors to report that she could smell gas. Moments later, the home burst into flames, igniting an inferno that neighbors said rattled their houses.

Pierce County sheriff's spokesman Sgt. Ed Troyer said

it appeared some sort of accelerant was used to make the house burn faster.

He said emails Powell sent just prior to the blaze seemed to confirm that Powell planned the deadly blast. Troyer didn't elaborate on the content of the emails.

Jeffrey Bassett, who represented Powell in the custody case, said he received an ominous email from his client just minutes before the fire.

"I'm sorry, goodbye," it read.

Susan Powell, a pretty 28-year-old mother of two, was reported missing Dec. 7, 2009, after she failed to show up for

her stockbroker job in Utah.

Authorities in the couple's hometown of West Valley City, about 10 miles outside Salt Lake City, quickly turned their attention to Josh Powell. He's been the only "person of interest" in the case, but had repeatedly denied any involvement in her disappearance.

"I would never even hurt her," a tearful, red-eyed Josh Powell told CBS' Early Show in August. "People who know me know that I could never hurt Susan."

About a month later, police spent 12 days in the remote central Utah desert looking

for clues, and Josh Powell and his father, Steven, quickly disappeared from the limelight. The search area around Topaz Mountain, a popular spot for rock and gem hunters, was about 30 miles south of where Josh told police he went camping with his two children in the hours before his wife's disappearance—his steadfast alibi.

On Sunday, the lawyer for Susan Powell's parents, Chuck and Judy Cox, told the AP the children had started talking to their grandparents about things they remembered from the night their mother vanished.



Pierce County Sheriff's deputies and Graham Firefighters work around the smoldering remains of a house near Fredrickson, Wash., Sunday, Feb. 5, 2012, where, according to a sheriff's spokesman, three bodies were found.

GOP race turns to Colorado, Minnesota

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Now it's on to Colorado, Minnesota and Maine.

With back-to-back victories fueling him, Republican presidential front-runner Mitt Romney is looking toward the next states that hold GOP nominating contests as main rival Newt Gingrich brushes aside any talk of abandoning his White House bid—all but ensuring the battle will stretch into the spring if not beyond.

Shortly after losing big to Romney here, the former House speaker emphatically renewed his vow to campaign into the party convention in Tampa this summer. His goal, he said, was to "find a series of victories which by the end of the Texas primary will leave us at parity" with Romney by early April.

Gingrich continued to shrug off Nevada's caucus results in an appearance on Sunday on NBC's Meet the Press.

"This is the state he won last time, and he won it this time," he said of Romney. "Our goal is to get to Super Tuesday where we're in much more favorable territory."

But first, Gingrich must make it through Colorado and Min-

nesota, which both hold caucuses Tuesday. Maine follows on Saturday during a month that promises to be as plodding as January was rapid-fire in the presidential race. Romney will look to maintain his position of strength, if not build upon it, as his rivals continue working to derail him even as their options for doing so narrow with each victory he notches.

The former Massachusetts governor held a double-digit lead Sunday morning over his nearest pursuer as the totals mounted in Nevada, where fellow Mormons accounted for roughly a quarter of all caucusgoers. Gingrich and Texas Rep. Ron Paul vied for a distant second. Former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum trailed the field. Santorum won the leadoff caucuses in Iowa and has trailed in the contests since then. He nonetheless insisted on Sunday that "our numbers are moving up continually."

"I think we're going to show improvement. This race is a long long way from being over," Santorum said on Fox News Sunday.

And on ABC's "This Week," Paul maintained the

results show voters are still up for grabs.

"I get energized because I know there's a large number of people who are looking for another option," Paul said.

With votes from 71 percent of the precinct caucuses tallied, Romney had 48 percent, Gingrich 23 percent, Paul 19 percent and Santorum 11 percent. Turnout was down significantly from 2008, when Romney also won the state's GOP caucuses.

More than 24 hours after caucuses began, results from the state's most populous county were still being tallied. The outcome could affect the second- and third-place finishers.

"Our goal is to finish verification," said Clark County GOP spokeswoman Bobbie Haseley. "There is no modern technology when it comes to how the voting took place and the counting."

Romney's victory capped a week that began with his double-digit win in the Florida primary. That contest was as intense as Nevada's caucuses were sedate -- so quiet that they produced little television advertising, no candidate debates and only a modest investment of time by the contenders.

3 lost in Ore. considered eating dog

GOLD BEACH, Ore. (AP)—

Three mushroom pickers lost six nights in the rugged forest of southwest Oregon with no food considered eating their dog, and used the screen on their dead cellphone and the blade of a sheath knife to flash a signal at the helicopter pilot who found them.

Dan Conne said Sunday from his hospital bed in Gold Beach that he and his wife and son spent the nights huddled in a hollow log with nothing to eat, and considered sacrificing their pit bull, Jesse, for food.

"She's that good a dog, she'd have done it, too," Conne said.

A volunteer helicopter pilot looking outside the search area Saturday spotted Dan and Belinda Conne, both 47, along with 25-year-old Michael, on the edge of a deep ravine in tall timber. They were about 10 miles northeast of the town of Gold Beach, roughly 330 miles south-southwest of Portland.

"The wife had the BlackBerry and I had the knife," Dan Conne told The Associated Press. "I kept flashing. The wife said, 'You're blinding them.' But I wanted to make sure they seen us. I wasn't taking no chance."

The three had given up hope and thought they were going to die when rescuers came.

"None of us thought we were

coming out of there," he said.

While lost, the cold and hungry family could see search helicopters and airplanes flying low and slow overhead, but they couldn't get the pilots' attention through the thick, coastal forest vegetation.

When they were found, the Connes were just five football fields from a road, and a mile

from their Jeep.

The three were airlifted to a Gold Beach hospital, where they stayed overnight.

Dan Conne hurt his back, and Belinda Conne had hypothermia, Curry County Sheriff John Bishop said. All three were hungry, and enjoyed their potato soup and sandwiches at the hospital.



Dan Conne hugs his dog, Jesse, Sunday, Feb. 5, 2012 at the pound in Gold Beach, Ore., where he was with her after they spent six night lost in the woods.

ACROSS THE NATION

Authorities: Stun gun used on woman at drive-thru

HOPE MILLS, N.C. (AP)—North Carolina authorities say they used a stun gun on a woman motorist who blocked a McDonald's drive-thru for 20 minutes after employees refused to serve her because she cut in line. Authorities say 37-year-old Evangeline Lucca bypassed the order screen and line and pulled directly up to the pick-up window Friday afternoon at the restaurant in Hope Mills, about 60 miles south of Raleigh. Cumberland County

sheriff's spokeswoman Debbie Tanner told *The Fayetteville Observer* that the woman had her 3-year-old daughter in the car when she became confrontational with the workers before deputies arrived.

Brown U. student uncovers lost Malcolm X speech

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—The recording was forgotten, and so, too, was the odd twist of history that brought together Malcolm X and a bespectacled Ivy Leaguer fated to become one of America's top diplomats.

The audiotape of Malcolm X's 1961 address in Providence might never have surfaced at all if 22-year-old Brown University student Malcolm Burnley hadn't stumbled across a reference to it in an old student newspaper. He found the recording of the little-remembered visit gathering dust in the university archives. "No one had listened to this in 50 years," Burnley told The Associated Press. "There aren't many recordings of him before 1962. And this is a unique speech—it's not like others he had given before."

World

Just a bluff? Fears grow of Israeli attack on Iran

JERUSALEM (AP)—For the first time in nearly two decades of escalating tensions over Iran's nuclear program, world leaders are genuinely concerned that an Israeli military attack on the Islamic Republic could be imminent—an action that many fear might trigger a wider war, terrorism and global economic havoc.

High-level foreign dignitaries, including the U.N. chief and the head of the American military, have stopped in Israel in recent weeks, urging leaders to give the diplomatic process more time to work. Israel seems unmoved, and U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta has reportedly concluded that an Israeli attack on Iran is likely in the coming months.

U.S. President Barack Obama said Sunday he does not think Israel has decided whether to attack Iran, telling NBC News in an interview that the United States was “going to be sure that we work in lockstep as we proceed to try to solve this—hopefully diplomatically.”

Despite harsh economic sanctions and international pressure, Iran is refusing to abandon its nuclear program, which it insists is purely civilian, and threatening Israel and the West.

It's beginning to cause jitters in world capitals and financial markets.

“Of course I worry that there will be a military conflict,” Britain's deputy prime minister, Nick Clegg, said in a magazine interview last week. He said Britain was “straining every single sinew to resolve this through a combination of pressure and engagement,” rather than military action.

Is Israel bluffing? Israeli leaders have been claiming Iran is pursuing nuclear weapons since the early 1990s, and defense officials have issued a series of ever-changing estimates on how close Iran is to the bomb. But the saber-rattling has become much more direct and vocal.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu frequently draws parallels between modern-day Iran and Nazi Germany on the eve of the Holocaust.

On Thursday, Defense Minister Ehud Barak claimed during a high-profile security conference that there is a “wide global understanding” that military action may be needed.

“There is no argument about the intolerable danger a nuclear Iran (would pose) to the future of the Middle East, the security of Israel and to the economic and security stability of the entire world,” Barak said.

A day earlier, visiting U.N. Secre-



In this April, 9, 2007, file photo Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, speaks at a ceremony in Iran's nuclear enrichment facility in Natanz, 300 kms 186 (miles) south of capital Tehran, Iran.

tary-General Ban Ki-moon implored Israel to find a peaceful solution to the nuclear standoff.

Israel views Iran as a mortal threat, citing Iranian calls for Israel's destruction, Iran's support for anti-Israel militant groups and Iranian missile technology capable of hitting Israel.

On Friday, Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, called Israel a “cancerous tumor that should be cut and will be cut,” and boasted of supporting any group that will challenge the Jewish state.

When faced with such threats, Israeli has a history of lashing out in the face of world opposition. That legacy that includes the game-changing 1967 Middle East war, which left Israel in control of vast Arab lands, a brazen 1981 airstrike that destroyed an unfinished Iraqi nuclear reactor, and a stealthy 2007 airstrike in Syria that is believed to have destroyed a nuclear reactor in the early stages of construction.

Armed with a fleet of ultramodern U.S.-made fighter planes and unmanned drones, and reportedly possessing intermediate-range Jericho missiles, Israel has the capability to take action against Iran too, though it would carry grave risks.

It would require flying over Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Syria or Turkey. It is uncertain whether any of these Muslim countries would knowingly allow Israel to use their airspace.

With targets some 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometers) away, Israeli planes would likely have the complicated task of refueling in flight. Iran's antiquated air force, however, is unlikely to provide much of a challenge.

Many in the region cannot believe Israel would take such a step without a green light from the United States, its most important ally. That sense is deepened by the heightened stakes of a U.S. election year and the feeling that if Israel acts alone, the West would not

escape unscathed.

The U.S. has been trying to push both sides, leading the charge for international sanctions while also pressing Israel to give the sanctions more time. In recent weeks, both the U.S. and European Union have imposed harsher sanctions on Iran's oil sector, the lifeblood of its economy, and its central bank. Israeli officials say they want the sanctions to be imposed faster and for more countries to join them.

Last week, The Associated Press reported that officials in Israel—all of whom spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss Iran—were concerned that the measures, while welcome, were constraining Israel in its ability to act because the world expected the effort to be given a chance.

Even a limited Israeli operation could well unleash nationwide fighting. Iran could launch its Shihab 3 missiles at Israel, and have its local proxies, Hezbollah,

lah in Lebanon and Hamas in the Gaza Strip, unleash rockets. Israel's military intelligence chief, Aviv Kochavi, warned last week that Israel's enemies possess some 200,000 rockets.

While sustained rocket and missile fire would certainly make life uncomfortable in Israel, Barak himself has said he believes casualties would be low—suggesting it would be in the hundreds.

Iran might also try to attack Western targets in the region, including the thousands of U.S. forces based in the Gulf with the 5th Fleet.

An Israeli attack might have other unintended consequences. A European diplomat based in Pakistan, permitted to speak only under condition of anonymity, said that if Israel attacks, Islamabad will have no choice but to support any Iranian retaliation. That raises the specter of putting a nuclear-armed Pakistan at odds with Israel, widely believed to have its own significant nuclear arsenal.

To some, the greatest risk is to the moribund world economy.

Analysts believe an Israeli attack would cause oil prices to spike, since global markets so far have largely dismissed the Israeli threats and not “price in” the threat. According to one poll conducted by the Rapidan Group, an energy consulting firm in Bethesda, Maryland, prices would surge by \$23 a barrel. The price of oil settled Friday at \$97.84 a barrel.

“Traders don't believe there's anything but bluster going on,” said Robert McNally, president of Rapidan and an energy adviser to former President George W. Bush. “A potential Israeli attack on Iran is different than almost every scenario that we've seen before.”

McNally said Iran could rattle oil markets by targeting oil fields in southern Iraq or export facilities in Saudi Arabia or Qatar—and withhold sales of its own oil and natural gas from countries not boycotting.

Iran also could attempt to carry out its biggest threat: to shut the Strait of Hormuz, a strategic waterway through which a fifth of the world's oil passes. That could send oil prices soaring beyond \$200 a barrel. But analysts note Iran's navy is overmatched.

If a surge in oil prices proved lasting, financial markets would probably plummet on concerns that global economic growth would slow and on the fear that any conflict could worsen and spread.

WORLD BRIEFS

After UN veto, US floats coalition on Syria

BEIRUT (AP)—The United States proposed an international coalition to support Syria's opposition Sunday after Russia and China blocked a U.N. attempt to end nearly 11 months of bloodshed, raising fears that violence will escalate. Rebel soldiers said force was now the only way to oust President Bashar Assad, while the regime vowed to press its military crackdown. The threat of both sides turning to greater force after Russia and China vetoed a U.N. Security Council resolution raises the potential for Syria's

turmoil to move into even a more dangerous new phase that could degenerate into outright civil war. The uprising inspired by other Arab Spring revolts began in March with peaceful protests against Assad's regime, sparking a fierce crackdown by government forces. Soldiers who defected to join the uprising later began to protect protesters from attacks. In recent months, the rebel soldiers, known as the Free Syrian Army, have grown bolder, attacking regime troops and trying to establish control in pro-opposition areas. That has brought a heavier government response.

Report: 78 killed in police strike in Brazil state

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Murder rates in the northeastern city of Salvador have more than doubled since the start of a police strike, media reports said Sunday, although they added that the situation in Brazil's third most populous city appears to be improving. Salvador's A Tarde daily reported that 78 people have been murdered in and around Bahia state's capital city since Wednesday, when about a third of state police officers walked off the job, demanding pay raises and bonuses. Five people were killed early

Sunday, including a 13-year-old girl, the report said. The government news service Agencia Brasil has said the number of killings during the strike was more than double the number in the same period last year.

Egypt to try 19 Americans in case straining ties

CAIRO (AP)—Ignoring a U.S. threat to cut off aid, Egypt on Sunday referred 19 Americans and 24 other employees of nonprofit groups to trial before a criminal court on accusations they illegally used foreign funds to foment unrest in the country. Egypt's military

rulers had already deeply strained ties with Washington with their crackdown on U.S.-funded groups promoting democracy and human rights and accused of stirring up violence in the aftermath of the uprising a year ago that ousted Hosni Mubarak. The decision to send 43 workers from the various groups to trials marks a sharp escalation in the dispute. Egypt and the United States have been close allies for more than three decades, but the campaign against the organizations has angered Washington, and jeopardized the \$1.5 billion in aid Egypt is set to receive from the U.S. this year.

Focus

From shipwreck in Italy, a treasure now beckons

AP
In this undated file photo released by the Italian Fire Brigade, Vigili del Fuoco, Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2012, firemen scuba divers check one of the propellers of the luxury cruise ship Costa Concordia that ran ashore off the Tuscany island of Isola del Giglio, Italy.

ROME (AP)—In the chaotic evacuation of the *Costa Concordia*, passengers and crew abandoned almost everything on board the cruise ship: jewels, cash, champagne, antiques, 19th-century Bohemian crystal glassware and thousands of art objects, including 300-year-old woodblock prints by a Japanese master.

Now, a veritable treasure lies beneath the pristine Italian waters where the luxury liner ran aground last month.

Though some objects are bound to disintegrate, there is still hoard enough to tempt treasure seekers—just as the Titanic and countless shipwrecks before have lured seekers of gold, armaments and other riches for as far back as mankind can remember.

It may be just a matter of time before treasure hunters set their sights on the sunken spoils of the *Costa Concordia*, which had more than 4,200 people on board.

“As long as there are bodies in there, it’s considered off base to everybody because it’s a grave,” said Robert Marx, a veteran diver and the author of numerous books on maritime history, underwater archaeology and treasure hunting. “But when all the bodies are out, there will be a mad dash for the valuables.”

The Mafia, he said, even has underwater teams that specialize in going after sunken booty.

The *Costa Concordia* was essentially a floating luxury hotel and many of the passengers embarked on the ill-fated cruise with their finest clothes and jewels so they could parade them in casinos and at gala dinners beneath

towering chandeliered ceilings.

On top of that was the massive wealth belonging to the ship itself: elegant shops stocked with jewelry, more than 6,000 works of art decorating walls and a wellness spa containing a collection of 300-year-old woodblock prints by Katsushika Hokusai, a Japanese artist most famous for his work of a giant wave framing Mount Fuji in the distance.

“It’s now a paradise for divers,” said Hans Reinhardt, a German lawyer who represents 19 German passengers seeking compensation for their losses. He said some of his clients traveled with diamond-studded jewels and other heirlooms that had been in their families for generations.

“They lost lots of jewelry—watches, necklaces, whatever women wear when they want to get well dressed,” Reinhardt said. “They wanted to show off what they have.”

The massive cruise liner itself is worth \$590 million (euro450 million), but that doesn’t take into account the value of all other objects on board, said

Costa Crociere SpA, the Italian company that operated the *Costa Concordia*.

Among the sunken objects are furniture, a vast art collection, computers, wine, champagne, as well as whatever valuables were locked away in safes in private cabins, the Costa Crociere press office said.

“Quantifying this is impossible because unfortunately the ship has sunk,” Costa Crociere said. “Until the ship is recovered there’s no way to know what can be saved and what can’t.”

The company still legally owns

“The *Costa Concordia* was essentially a floating luxury hotel and many of the passengers embarked on the ill-fated cruise with their finest clothes and jewels so they could parade them in casinos and at gala dinners beneath towering chandeliered ceilings.”

the ship and the passengers own their sunken objects. So any treasure seekers would be breaking the law and subject to arrest—and the looted objects subject to seizure, the Coast Guard said.

An American passenger, Georgia Ananias, said she debated how much jewelry to take on the cruise, and in the end opted for a diamond pendant, matching diamond earrings and other pieces from Tiffany’s.

“I thought this would be a beautiful vacation and I wanted to look nice and enjoy these pieces,” she said by tele-

phone from her home in Los Angeles.

Now, they’re all gone. Adding to her loss, someone took a credit card from her purse after she dropped it on the deck as she struggled to evacuate, and racked up \$3,000 in charges on it. “How could anybody be that low?” she said.

The ship ran aground off the Tuscany island of Giglio after the captain, Francesco Schettino, veered from his approved course, apparently to move closer to entertain passengers with a closer view of the island—a common cruise ship practice. Schettino is now

under house arrest, facing possible charges of manslaughter, causing a shipwreck and abandoning ship before all passengers were evacuated. Seventeen people are confirmed dead in the Jan. 13 shipwreck, with 15 more still missing.

For now, the ship’s wreckage has been impounded by authorities and is surrounded by rescue workers, cleanup

crews and scientists monitoring its stability on the rocky perch where it ran aground. Civil Protection, the agency running the rescue effort, says there is so much activity surrounding it that authorities don’t see a risk of looting yet. It also says it plans to remove the wreckage before looters can reach it.

Authorities have passed a decree preventing anyone from coming within a nautical mile of the wreck, a ruling that will remain in effect as long as the huge liner is still in place, the Coast Guard said.

“The ship is being guarded 24 hours a day. It’s not possible to even get close,” said Lt. Massimo Maccheroni, a Coast Guard official.

Civil Protection director Franco Gabrielli says it could take seven to 10 months to remove the 950-foot-long (290 meter-long) ship once a contract is awarded for the job. Costa Crociere said in a statement Thursday that it expected to award a contract by the end of March.

But Marx, whose 64 books include “Treasure Lost at Sea,” says that divers inevitably make a dash for sunken loot, even at great risk, and that they treat shipwrecks as a free-for-all.

He estimates it will take four to six months before a real treasure hunt starts—in part because divers will want to avoid the rough winter sea. Some divers will also be put off because the ship is still shifting on the reef it collided into and is considered unstable.

But soon, treasure hunters will go. “Bright-eyed divers will want to make a fortune,” Marx said.

He said anything that is pulled up from this now-infamous ship will have value, noting that even coal brought up from the Titanic, which sank 100 years ago, found eager buyers.

“Even the dishes, the crockery inside that ship—that’s going to be worth an absolute fortune,” Marx said.

Reinhardt, the German lawyer, says his clients would love nothing more than to get back their cherished valuables. But at this point they are merely counting on a cash settlement.

“They would prefer to get their original stuff,” he said. “But they don’t have hope.”

Overdrive

The 2012 Hyundai Veloster, a three-door hatchback, has bold looks but falls short on the sprint.

MCT

NUTS & BOLTS

Base price, including destination: \$18,060
Price as tested: \$22,200 (with Style and Tech packages)

Hyundai Veloster built to turn heads, though not too quickly

BY BARRY SPYKER
 MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

A parking-lot security guard smiled and nodded approvingly. Others glued their eyes to the 2012 Hyundai Veloster, watching it all the way down the street.

Truth is, the Veloster is the boldest-looking and most stylish compact hatchback to come along in many years. Featuring one primary oddity—three doors, not two or four—the Veloster has attitude and it grabbed me the moment I saw it.

On the driver side, a coupe-like door; the other side has two sedan-like doors. That's where the rear-seaters will want to enter but, with a center cupholder-setup dividing the rear seat, it's not the easiest of slide-overs. Also, six-footers may grumble about headroom. But it's still cool.

Based on the Elantra, though no one will really notice, the Veloster is the new guy in the hatchback neighborhood. It arguably is the sharpest looking of the bunch, is definitely not the fastest, but may offer the best bang for the buck with a host of standard amenities.

It is sleek, even racy, from the profile. The front end is aggressive-looking, and its rear spoiler

and dual, trapezoidal exhausts will garner attention, too. Front and rear overhangs are short and the optional 18-inch wheels will draw even more gawks.

So one might expect its aggressive look to be matched with aggressive performance. Well, Houston, we have a bit of a problem.

The Veloster screams (or was it just me?) for some turbo aid. Fortunately, I learned, one is expected next year.

Meanwhile, the 1.6-liter, inline four-banger falls short on the sprint. It's not awful—the dang Veloster only weighs 2,600 pounds—and direct injection helps the cause. But the 138-hp motor will not please the driving enthusiasts, the folks who like to get on it. Zero to 60 takes nearly 9 seconds.

But, surprisingly, Veloster is more about economy. Cruising the highway at a reasonable speed can get you 28 mpg around town and up to 40 mpg on the highway.

Regulating the speed is done by two smooth-performing systems: a six-speed manual that offers tight, short throws or a six-speed dual-clutch automatic that comes

with shift paddles on the wheel so you can take more control.

And Veloster becomes much more fun when you hit the twisty roads. While steering was not as crisp as a cracker, Veloster handles the curves with good finesse. Body roll is minimal, aided by anti-roll bars and gas-charged shocks.

While its punch fails to live up to its racy looks, Veloster's interior hits the mark nicely.

Two-toned seats are well bolstered to hold you in, but not annoyingly so. And the cushioning is comfortable even for a longer haul. Plenty of headroom and legroom up front; leg room is sufficient in the rear but, as aforementioned, the sloping rear roof line may crowd the taller guys.

A deep trunk provides 15-plus cubic feet of space. Pull down the 60-40 rear seats and you can more than double that to 35 cubic feet.

The dashboard instruments are conveniently situated. A 7-inch touch screen displays audio controls and optional back-up camera, and its graphics are sharp and bright. On it you'll see Hyundai's new BlueLink telematics system, which offers navigation, mes-

saging and even location sharing through Facebook.

Visibility from within is good, not obstructed, but the rear-hatch glass distorts the view somewhat. Give it a C-plus.

A panoramic sunroof is available to brighten the cabin.

Veloster comes in just one trim, but it's nicely appointed. All standard: 17-inch wheels, AC, tilt/telescoping steering wheel, full

power seats and accessories, six-speaker sound system with CD player, Bluetooth and USB iPod connectivity.

Then you can option it out in two packages: Style and Tech. Style provides, well, style: chrome grille, fog lights, panoramic sunroof and 18-inch wheels. Tech package gets a nav system, rear-view camera and parking sensors.

Standard safety features include ABS, traction and stability control, front-seat side air bags and full-length side-curtain air bags.

With startlingly good looks, impressive mileage and price (starting around 18 grand), the Veloster has plenty going for it. Truly, I liked it.

To love it, let's see more spring in its step. Bring on that turbo.

Stumbling Saturn might need pro's advice

BY PAUL BRAND
 STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: We are having problems with our '95 Saturn SL2. When you start the car it runs for about 25 minutes, then shuts off. We can't afford to bring it to a dealer or mechanic, and we can't afford to buy another car, so we need to fix it ourselves. We have replaced the fuel pump, fuel filter and fuel pressure regulator along with the coil packs and ignition module. We cleaned the exhaust gas recirculation (EGR) valve and replaced the powertrain control module. Still, it shuts off after about 25 minutes. We then replaced the catalytic converter, but this still didn't fix the problem. The car starts and runs fine, but after about 25 minutes it shuts itself down. When we try to start it again, it stumbles and shuts off.

ANSWER: At this point, I can't help but wonder if a professional shop and its sophisticated testing equipment might have been a good choice.

That said, the "stumbles and shuts off" description of your restart attempts may be a clue. The "stumble" means it's got spark and some fuel. Installing a fuel pressure gauge and test-driving the car until it stalls would tell you if a lack of fuel pressure is the problem. If so, try a couple of simple fixes. Carry a gallon of water in the car and when it stalls for lack of fuel pressure, pour the water slowly over the fuel rail, pressure regulator and

intake manifold to cool them. If the engine restarts and runs, it could be vapor lock—fuel boiling in the fuel rail causing a loss of fuel pressure. And even though you've replaced the catalytic converter, make sure there is no exhaust restriction that could lead to an overheated manifold and cylinder head.

Two other possible causes come to mind. A problem with the evaporative emissions system and/or fuel tank vent system or solenoid might not be allowing air into the tank as the fuel level drops, ultimately creating enough vacuum in the tank after 25 minutes of driving to overcome the fuel pump.

Try opening the fuel filler cap after it stalls to see if excess vacuum is released, then try restarting the engine. Even though you've changed the pump and filter, accumulated sediment in the tank itself might be slowly blocking the sock filter on the fuel pickup, starving the pump for fuel.

And finally, plugging in a scan tool to check for fault codes might identify the precise cause. Some auto parts stores will do this at no cost.

Q: I took my 2010 Buick in for a smell of rotten eggs. They said to change gas stations and use better gas. I think it's something else.

A: I think you're right. First, remember that every motor vehicle sold in the U.S. is covered by a federally mandated eight-year/80,000-mile emissions warranty that specifically covers the engine manage-

ment computer and catalytic converter.

The sulfur or rotten-egg smell is created by excess temperature in the catalytic converter. Too much unburned fuel reaching the converter can cause it to generate excess heat as it catalyzes the fuel. A brief whiff of this odor on a cold start isn't abnormal, but once the engine is up to temperature you shouldn't experience this.

Low engine operating temperature, an overly rich fuel-air mix, a restricted exhaust flow or a failed catalytic converter are possible causes. A scan tool might pinpoint the cause.

Q: I understand that newer cars and newer oils spell reconsideration of the 3,000-mile oil change rule, but what about older cars? Can I let my '96 Buick Park Avenue go 6,000 miles between oil changes?

A: You can, but I wouldn't. Assuming expected mileage for a 15-year-old or older vehicle, intervals of 3,500 to 4,000 miles would ensure that soluble contaminants—fuel, moisture and combustion byproducts—don't reach dangerous levels.

Paul Brand, author of How to Repair Your Car, is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488 or via email at paul.brand@startribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. It isn't always possible to send a personal reply.

Transmission cooler can prevent hauling damage

BY BRAD BERGHOLDT
 MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

QUESTION: I purchased a 2011 Nissan Murano, V-6, constant variable transmission, which did not include a tow package. I tow a 14-foot fishing boat that with trailer and gear weighs about 700 pounds. I installed a trailer hitch and harness myself, but not a transmission cooler or heavy duty alternator. About three or four times a year, I tow the boat to the High Sierra with my camping gear inside the Nissan, and I also fish the local lakes several times a year. My question: Is it advisable or necessary to install a transmission cooler and heavy-duty alternator?—Chuck Schneider

ANSWER: You're wise to

consider these upgrades, as towing in mountainous terrain can place a lot of stress on a transmission and cooling system. The Murano's Xtronic CVT transmission differs from a conventional automatic transmission in that it uses two variable diameter pulleys and a steel belt to allow ratio changes, rather than gears. CV transmissions are used in a growing number of smaller vehicles to improve powertrain efficiency and Nissan has advanced the technology, with some bumps in the road with earlier Muranos, to widespread use behind a powerful V-6 engine.

Your Murano is rated to tow 3,500 pounds, and the combined weight of your boat, trailer and gear are less than one-quarter of this, so you aren't really pushing the envelope very hard.

Your CVT, like a conventional automatic transmission, still uses a torque converter, which creates the majority of the heat in a transmission.

Auxiliary transmission cooler or not? I'm torn on this. It's a very light towing load, but surely an expensive transmission to fix, as are all of them these days. If you plan to keep the Murano beyond the 5 year/60,000 mile powertrain warranty, I'd install a cooler. A heavy-duty alternator isn't necessary, as the only increase in electrical consumption is perhaps 5 or 6 amps of lighting.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Life&Style

M.I.A. flips bird during Super Bowl halftime show

By **DAVID BAUDER**
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

For all the pomp and excess of Madonna's Super Bowl halftime extravaganza a single extended middle finger by guest singer M.I.A. is likely to be the most remembered piece of the show.

The gesture, accompanied by a barely disguised expletive, came during a performance of Madonna's new single, "Give Me All Your Luvn'." At the end of her lines, M.I.A. appeared to sing "I don't give a (expletive)," although it was hard to hear clearly.

The incident was reminiscent of Janet Jackson's infamous "wardrobe malfunction" eight years ago—a surprise risqué moment in front of tens of millions of unsuspecting viewers. The brief exposure of Jackson's nipple during the 2004 halftime show raised a storm of controversy and put CBS in hot water with the Federal Communications Commission.

The Super Bowl, shown on NBC this year, is routinely viewed by more than 100 million people, the biggest TV event of the year.

"We apologize for the inappropriate gesture that aired during halftime," NBC spokesman Christopher McCloskey said. "It was a spontaneous gesture that our delay system caught late."

The screen briefly went blurred after M.I.A.'s gesture in what was a late attempt—by less than a second—to cut out the camera shot.

The NFL, which produces the show, blamed a failure in NBC's delay sys-



Madonna performs during halftime of the NFL Super Bowl XLVI football game between the New York Giants and the New England Patriots, Sunday, Feb. 5, 2012, in Indianapolis.

tem for allowing the gesture to be seen. Spokesman Brian McCarthy said M.I.A. did not do anything similar during rehearsals and the league had no reason to believe she would pull something like that during the actual show.

"The obscene gesture in the performance was completely inappropriate, very disappointing, and we apologize

to our fans," McCarthy said.

The British singer M.I.A. is best known for her 2007 hit "Paper Planes," a Grammy nominee for record of the year that memorably features a sample of the Clash song, "Straight to Hell." It was featured on the soundtrack to the movie "Slumdog Millionaire."

Madonna had admittedly been nervous

about her performance, hoping to position herself as the queen of a new generation of pop stars with an opulent show and a sharp performance that mixed her new release with more familiar songs. She seemed like Roman royalty when muscle-bound men carried her extravagant throne across the football field to the stage for her opening song, "Vogue."

Guests Cee Lo, Nicki Minaj and dance rockers LMFAO also appeared with Madonna. The singing and dancing on "Vogue" was smartly choreographed, as Madonna moved more deliberately—she is 53—but still adroitly. She briefly appeared to stumble at one point while trying to make a step on the stage set, but recovered in time.

She let a tightrope walker make the more acrobatic moves during a performance of "Music."

Madonna carried gold pompons for a performance of her new single. Twitter was alight with questions about the vocals being lip synched or augmented by tapes, particularly during this song.

The best guest was clearly Cee Lo, who joined Madonna for the final song, "Like a Prayer." They were joined by a robed chorus in the show's most soaring performance. With a puff of white smoke, Madonna disappeared down a trap door in the stage, and lights on the field spelled out "World Peace."

The performance was also carried live on SiriusXM Radio, giving Madonna the biggest single audience of her career. For all the elaborate choreography and flashy effects, the finger incident is the more likely headline from the event.

Earlier, Kelly Clarkson, Blake Shelton and Miranda Lambert offered some pregame patriotism. Shelton and Lambert did a twangy duet on "America the Beautiful" and Clarkson, in a simple black dress, sang "The Star Spangled Banner" without a hitch after last year's performer, Christina Aguilera, flubbed a line.

Philadelphia celebrates Dickens' 200th birthday

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Past the glass case containing sketches for his novel "Oliver Twist," beyond the handwritten letter to his publisher about Little Nell, and away from the first published installments of "Hard Times" sits Charles Dickens' pet bird.

The carefully preserved and stuffed raven named Grip—later the inspiration for Edgar Allan Poe's famous poem—is perhaps the quirkiest part of the Philadelphia public library's valuable Dickens collection, now on display to celebrate his bicentennial.

The British author, who created unforgettable characters like Ebenezer Scrooge and David Copperfield, visited The City of Brotherly Love only twice. But two local benefactors bequeathed major collections of Dickensiana to the library, including 1,200 letters alone. And a rare statue of the author sits in a neighborhood park.

The library and Friends of Clark Park are now among numerous groups worldwide celebrating the novelist's 200th birthday. He was born in Portsmouth, England, on Feb. 7, 1812.

"(It was) the ideal opportunity to share our literary treasures with the community and celebrate the fact that Dickens' clever characters and engaging plotlines transcend time and are as relevant today as they were when he created them," library director Siobhan Reardon said in a statement.

Among the items on view in the rare book department are first editions of his novels and original art-

work for the tales; dozens of letters to colleagues; the desk where he left unfinished his 15th book, "The Mystery of Edwin Drood"; and an 1846 manuscript of the "Children's New Testament"—Dickens' own version of the life of Jesus, which he read to his children each Christmas.

Also on display, safe in a terrarium, stands Grip, the pet raven that Dickens preserved through taxidermy. Grip appeared as a minor character in Dickens' book "Barnaby Rudge," which Poe reviewed while living in Philadelphia. He criticized the bird's small role, and penned "The Raven" four years later.

The library's yearlong celebration also includes regular book discussions and readings by a Dickens impersonator, who won the role through an "American Idol"-style contest. A birthday party was held Sunday.

Dickens first visited Philadelphia in 1842 and received a rock-star welcome, shaking hands with fans for hours in a hotel lobby. When he returned in 1868, people camped out for tickets to his readings and scalpers commanded high prices for the sold-out performances, according to research by the Philadelphia chapter of the Dickens Fellowship.

His work remains popular today because Dickens is a great storyteller who uses energetic language to create unforgettable characters, said John O. Jordan, a literature professor who directs the Dickens Project at the University of California at Santa Cruz.

US museum finds recording of Otto von Bismarck

NEW YORK (AP)—For the first time, 21st-century audiences are able to hear the voice of Otto von Bismarck, one of the 19th century's most important figures.

The National Park Service announced this week that the German chancellor's voice has been identified among those found on a dozen recorded wax cylinders, each more than 120 years old, that were once stored near Thomas Edison's cot in his West Orange, New Jersey, lab. They include music and dignitaries, including the voice of the only person born in the 18th century believed to be available on a recording.

The trove includes Bismarck's voice reciting songs and imploring his son to live morally and eat and drink in moderation.

"In the 18th century, the human voice was described as one of the most noble capacities of human beings," Stephan Puille, the German researcher who identified Bismarck's voice, said in an email. "Bismarck is no longer mute. I think his voice allows a new access to him."

"Sound is three-dimensional. Here, we only knew Bismarck from pictures and drawings. Now we know him a little better."

The people who study and collect early recordings knew they had been made, but did not know they still existed.

"Most early recordings I have read about had not survived," said Patrick Feaster, an Indiana University scholar

who also helped crack the mystery of what was on the cylinders.

The recordings were made in 1889 and 1890 by Theo Wangemann, whom Edison sent to supervise the use of the Edison Phonograph Works machines on display at the Paris World's Fair in 1889 before traveling to his native Germany. Feaster describes Wangemann as "the first serious professional recording engineer." While in Paris, he recorded orchestras, pianists, a comedian and others. He even recorded on the then-new Eiffel Tower.

While sound recordings were made as early as 1859, the ones on Edison's wax phonographs were in the first generation of recordings intended for playback.

The trip yielded one of the best known early recordings, of Johannes Brahms playing the piano. But, Feaster said, that cylinder has given early recordings a bad name. "This poor recording was utterly worn out before anyone copied it," he said. "It's very noisy. You can barely hear there's a piano." Feaster says the newly identified recordings, by contrast, show what the then-new technology perfected by Edison could do.

Wangemann's other recordings from the trip were long sought after.

Biographies mentioned them. Wangemann himself referred to them in 1906 when testifying at a patent trial. He said that by then, some were broken, according to Jerry Fabris, the curator of the museum at the Thomas Edison National

Historic Park. Ulrich Lappenkuper, managing director of the Otto von Bismarck Society in Friedrichsruh, Germany, said the search for one with the chancellor has gone on for years—in vain.

The story of the fragile brown wax cylinders picks up again in 1957, said Fabris. That was when the Edison home and laboratory were donated to the National Park Service.

At the time, there was a quick inventory of the lab's contents. A card attached to the wooden box said where it had been found. By then, Fabris said, some of the cylinders were broken by someone trying to pry open the locked box, which had no labels but one enticing feature in the form of the two words scratched in the wood: "Edison," and "Wangemann."

Fabris became curator of the sound recording collection in 1994. A year later, he started the decade-long task of cataloging all 39,000 phonographs in the collection, moving from the easiest to identify to the oldest, most experimental—and often unlabeled—ones.

He said he first gave a close look to the Wangemann cylinders in 2005. But at the time, he didn't have the equipment needed to convert the sounds stored on those fragile pieces into digital files. By 2010, he had what was needed and was able to convert the dozen cylinders that weren't too badly broken.

"When I heard that it was German speaking," he said, "that was a big clue that these might be something very important."

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Daniel Radcliffe, Ciarán Hinds
Thriller, Mystery • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

A widowed lawyer travels to a secluded village on an important assignment, and encounters a vengeful ghost with mysterious motives. After losing his beloved wife, Arthur Kippis (Daniel Radcliffe) was nearly consumed by grief. When an important client of Arthur's dies, he pulls himself out of mourning to settle the man's affairs. But in this town, everyone has a secret. Something horrible once happened here, and it seems that the locals are determined to ensure Arthur never finds out what it was.



Chronicle

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:30
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:30
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Dane DeHaan, Alex Russell
Thriller • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Three high school students make an incredible discovery, leading to their developing uncanny powers beyond their understanding. As they learn to control their abilities and use them to their advantage, their lives start to spin out of control, and their darker sides begin to take over.



The Devil Inside

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:55
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:55
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Monday thru Thursday		4:15	7:15	

Fernanda Andrade, Simon Quarterman
Horror • Rated R

Synopsis

A young woman learns that her mother committed multiple murders while undergoing an exorcism, and she travels to Rome with a film crew on a mission to uncover the truth about that horrific incident in this found-footage-style possession shocker from director William Brent Bell. As a young girl, Isabella Rossi (Fernanda Andrade) had been led to believe that the killings were committed after her mother flew into a psychotic rage. But when Isabella finds evidence indicating that an exorcism was being conducted on her mother at the time, she enlists a film crew to follow her to Italy in search of the truth. In order to gain a better understanding of the spiritual plight that her mother endured, Isabella and her crew attend a series of unsanctioned exorcisms that become increasingly terrifying.



The Grey

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Liam Neeson, Frank Grillo
Adventure • Rated R



Man On A Ledge

Friday		4:30	7:30	9:50
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:50
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Monday thru Thursday		4:30	7:30	

Sam Worthington, Elizabeth Banks
Drama, Thriller • Rated PG 13



One For The Money

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:35
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:35
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Monday thru Thursday		4:20	7:20	

Katherine Heigl, Jason O'Mara
Crime, Comedy, Thriller • Rated PG 13



Underworld: Awakening

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Monday thru Thursday		4:25	7:25	

Kate Beckinsale, Stephen Rea
Horror • Rated R

• NO PASSES • NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE • R-RATED FILMS REQUIRE PHOTO I.D.

www.gohollywood.com

Racy ads for French movie about infidelity pulled

PARIS (AP)—What does it take to shock in the land of the Gallic shrug? Ads that suggest adulterous oral sex, according to complaints about new movie "Les Infideles."

Posters for the film—which show the contented male stars with faceless women in submissive positions—went up Tuesday but were being taken down Friday following a request from France's self-regulating advertising body.

In one poster, actor and comedian Jean Dujardin stands between a pair of upside-down bare female legs, clutching them. In another, the back of a woman's head is waist high to actor Gilles Lellouche, who is on his cell phone. Her hands stretch up to his chest and a quotation over his head reads: "It's going to cut off. I'm going into a tunnel."

"We could see that this campaign didn't respect (the rules) with the sexually explicit positions, the play on words ... the boundaries were crossed," said Stephane Martin, the head of the Authority of Professional Regulation of Advertising.

Some French newspapers have suggested the ads could even cost Dujardin—nominated for an Academy Award for his role in the silent hit film "The Artist"—the Oscar.

They at least appear to have hit a raw nerve in a land with fresh memories of the scandal of last year's arrest of potential presidential contender Dominique Strauss-Kahn on charges of attempted rape.

JC Decaux, the outdoor advertising company that hung the posters, conceded they weren't in "good taste" and they would all be down by the end of the day.

They have been replaced by a third poster, where the male leads sit and laugh as two sexily clad women walk away.

"We already refused other visuals for this film that seemed unpublishable to us," the company said in a statement—without elaborating on what those images contained.

To some, the rumblings may indicate a post-Strauss-Kahn shift in French mores. When the former head of the International Monetary Fund was

arrested last year in New York—on charges later dropped—it set off soul-searching in a country known as a beacon for the sexually liberated and for its acceptance of extramarital affairs. Had the posters revived questions over whether France's reputed sexual liberation is a one-way street and largely disenfranchising to women?

Not quite, according to Osez le Feminisme, a French feminist organization. Magali Dehaas, a spokeswoman for the group, said that while she hoped the incident would prompt a rethink about sexism in advertising, she feared that the images shocked more for their sexually explicit content than for their depiction of women. She said Strauss-Kahn's arrest may have started the wheels turning, but "we have a lot of work to do in that department."

Sure enough, on the streets of Paris, some were left scratching their heads over why the ads had caused such a stir, given that French advertising is no foreigner to the racy. Yogurt is sold by bare-chested women on mainstream TV and a current ad pretends to show a man and woman having sex in the middle of their open-plan office—until we learn he is just applying a hot compress to her back.

"I am more shocked by the fact that the billboard was changed, because for me, there was nothing shocking," said Corinne Maugrenier, 37, as the posters came down Friday. "I think that we are moving toward a puritan system as in the United States."

French newspapers were suggesting Friday that Dujardin might lose his Oscar to the stunt.

"America doesn't kid at all with these kind of dirty photos," Le Parisien wrote.

Le Figaro suggested that those promoting rival actors might "play on the Puritanism" of the Academy's members to discredit Dujardin in the notoriously fierce competition.

The company that distributes the film in France, Mars Distribution, did not respond to requests for comment. A spokeswoman for Dujardin and the film also declined.



This undated handout photo provided by MarsFilm.com shows the movie poster for "Les Infideles" featuring Jean Dujardin framed by a woman's bare legs. Posters are being taken down following a recommendation from France's self-regulating advertising body.

Judge allows 'Sister Wives' suit to proceed

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—A federal judge has ruled there's sufficient evidence to allow a polygamous family made famous by a reality TV show to pursue a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of Utah's bigamy law.

U.S. District Judge Clark Waddoups on Friday dismissed Utah's governor and attorney general from the case, but allowed the suit to proceed against Utah County Attorney Jeffrey Buhman, the Deseret News and Salt Lake Tribune report.

Buhman threatened to prosecute Kody Brown and his four wives—Meri, Janelle, Christine and Robyn—after the TLC show "Sister Wives" debuted in September 2010, but his office has not filed charges.

The family sued Buhman, Gov. Gary Herbert and Attorney General Mark Shurtleff in July 2011, claiming Utah's big-

amy statute violates its constitutional rights to due process, equal protection, free exercise of religion, free speech and freedom of association.

Waddoups, in his 21-page ruling, wrote that he dismissed Herbert and Shurtleff from the case because Shurtleff assured the Browns that they wouldn't be prosecuted. Shurtleff has a policy of not prosecuting consenting adult polygamists as long as they're not committing other crimes.

But the judge wrote that Buhman conducted interviews with the news media that made it clear he intended to investigate and prosecute the Browns. The fact that no charges have been filed does not matter, he added.

"The entirety of actions by the Utah County prosecutors tend to show either an ill-conceived public-relations campaign to

showboat their own authority and/or harass the Browns and the polygamist community at large, or to assure the public that they intended to carry out their public obligations and prosecute violations of the law," Waddoups wrote.

There's reason for the Browns to believe they could face prosecution in Utah County, the judge continued, and that could have a "chilling effect" on their ability to practice their First Amendment rights in the state.

But the Browns must show that there's a real and viable threat to their constitutional rights for the lawsuit to hold up in court, Waddoups wrote.

Brown moved his wives and 16 children from Lehi to the Las Vegas area in January 2011.

Buhman said he had not yet reviewed the ruling and was not prepared to comment.

'Chronicle' edges Radcliffe's 'Woman' with \$22M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Some unknown kids with superpowers have nudged out the actor who plays the world's most famous teen wizard at the weekend box office.

The 20th Century Fox release "Chronicle," featuring a relatively unknown cast as youths who gain telekinetic abilities, debuted as the No. 1 movie with \$22 million.

Sunday studio estimates put "Harry Potter" star Daniel Radcliffe's ghost story "The Woman in Black," released by CBS Films, just behind with a \$21 million opening.

The results were close enough that the No. 1 and 2 rankings could switch when final numbers are released Monday.

The two movies had healthy starts considering it was Super Bowl weekend, when few people go to theaters on Sunday because of the big game.

Each movie landed in the all-time top-10 list for Super Bowl weekend debuts, which is headed by the \$31.1 million opening for 2008's "Hannah Montana & Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds Concert," according to box-office tracker Hollywood.com.

"To have two movies over \$20 million on a Super Bowl weekend is really strong," said Hollywood.com analyst Paul Dergarabedian. "If the Super Bowl is as close as these two movies, that'll be a really good Super Bowl."

The previous weekend's top movie, Liam Neeson's Alaska survival tale "The Grey," slipped to No. 3 with \$9.5 million, raising its domestic total to \$34.6 million.

At No. 4 with an \$8.5 million debut was another Alaska adventure, Universal Pictures' family film "Big Miracle," with Drew Barrymore and John Krasinski aiming to save three whales trapped by Arctic ice.

1. "Chronicle," \$22 million (\$13 million international)
2. "The Woman in Black," \$21 million
3. "The Grey," \$9.5 million (\$1.4 million international)
4. "Big Miracle," \$8.5 million (\$300,000 international)
5. "Underworld Awakening," \$5.6 million (\$11.9 million international)
6. "One for the Money," \$5.3 million
7. "Red Tails," \$5 million
8. "The Descendants," \$4.6 million (\$11.2 million international)
9. "Man on a Ledge," \$4.5 million (\$6.2 million international)
10. "Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close," \$3.9 million

Cannon says he is completely healthy after illness

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—What do you do after recovering from a serious illness? If you're Nick Cannon, you celebrate by attending the Super Bowl.

The entertainer was hospitalized last month after suffering from a form of mild kidney failure, but he says he is now fully healed.

"This is a great place to get back and debut the healthy Nick," he said on Sunday during a break as the host of NBC's pre-show. "Everybody's out here having a good time, and you know people were worried like, 'Is he going to be able to do the Super Bowl pre-show?' But I am 100 percent feeling good right now."

Cannon attributes his improved health to a change in diet, but says he does not eat the same food as wife Mariah Carey, who recently lost weight after giving birth to their twins Moroccan and Monroe.



"I used to be a fast-food junkie," Cannon explained. "She gets to have higher protein, which isn't fair because I love my steaks and I can't eat that anymore. Her carbs are lower so we are both on a diet, but it is different."

Cannon, who is a New York Giants fan, attended various events in the days leading up to the Super Bowl.

While his family was not with him, they were not far from his mind. When asked if he'd like to expand his brood one day, he laughed and said: "I would love to have more children. Now my wife on the other hand, I think the twins took a toll on her. She is like, 'I ain't doing that again.'"

In this April 2, 2011 file photo, entertainer Nick Cannon arrives at Nickelodeon's 24th Annual Kids' Choice Awards in Los Angeles.

For workers on graveyard shift, daytime is bedtime

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I just read the letter from a fellow frustrated night shifter, "Working a 40-Hour Week at Age 73" (Dec. 20). I have worked 12-hour shifts for many years to accommodate our family life. It is easier for me to be home in the morning to get the kids to school and be home when they get off the bus in the afternoon. I have the early evening free to get them to their activities, then go to work later.



Dear Abby

I thoroughly agree that the rest of the world does not understand! I've had the strangest requests from people because I'm home during the day. My solution has been to turn off our home phone and sleep with my cellphone on (in case one of the kids gets sick at school or some other dire emergency). This year I made a laminated sign for my front door, asking for peace and quiet. It says, "Please do not ring my doorbell. Night-shift worker sleeping at this time."

SLEEPLESS IN WISCONSIN

DEAR SLEEPLESS: Thanks for your letter. Your fellow night shifters were in complete agreement with you. My newspaper readers comment:

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: There's nothing unusual about "Working's" problem. I worked the graveyard shift for years at different jobs in different states, and it was exactly the same. In my case it was usually my mother, not my husband, who kept waking me up. Even worse, it wasn't unusual for bosses to call and wake me.

What surprised me was the number of people who think that sleep is optional rather than necessary. They seemed to think that they sleep at night because there's nothing else to do.

LAURA IN POLLOK, TEXAS

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Many people don't understand night workers' schedules. Relatives would announce that they were coming to visit during my working weekends despite the fact that I'd specifically explained my schedule. My husband would snipe at me in underhanded ways. When I finally confronted him, he admitted that he "subconsciously" felt that someone sleeping during the day was lazy.

Working nights is tough. The Harvard Nurses' Health Study has discovered that night workers get less rest even if they get a good day's sleep, that we make less melatonin and we die younger.

R.N. IN CONNECTICUT

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I sympathize with "Working." I also work a graveyard shift so I can be home with our newborn and not have to put him in day care eight hours a day. It's hard for people to understand that even though it's daytime for them, it's my night! I found myself running errands, marketing, etc., because I felt guilty being at home all day and "doing nothing." It took its toll on me until I got to the point where I could barely function.

I finally had to get over my issues about being home during the day and realize that I was putting in a 40-hour week just like anyone else. Since I didn't expect to do my chores at 3 a.m., I would no longer let anyone expect it of me. I still sleep in shifts to keep my son's time at day care to a minimum, but when I sleep, I don't let anyone interrupt. The world is going to have to wait until I get up.

Please tell "Working" not to let anyone make her feel guilty. Everyone needs sleep, and she shouldn't have to justify it to anyone.

FELLOW 3RD SHIFTER IN INDIANAPOLIS

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I worked nights for years. My husband's friends thought they were being funny when they'd call me at 7 a.m. asking, "How's the 'bat' doing?" One night at 3 a.m. I called each one of them to ask how THEY were doing. After that, I never received an early call again.

My husband didn't respect me either. He wanted me to get up at 7 a.m. to watch our son so he could play golf. I finally divorced him.

FULLY RESTED IN NEW MEXICO

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Johansson, Washington get German acting awards

BERLIN (AP)—U.S. actors Scarlett Johansson and Denzel Washington have received Germany's most prestigious film award as best international actors.

The 27-year-old Johansson said she was grateful that her work was also appreciated abroad as she received the Golden Camera Award late Saturday.

Actor Morgan Freeman was awarded a trophy for lifetime achievement, which the 74-year-old called "a great honor," German news agency dapt reported.

The 47th ceremony of the Golden Camera Awards was held in German publishing house Axel Springer's Berlin headquarters.

Kravitz has personal ties to NFL legends

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Lenny Kravitz has been enjoying Super Bowl weekend, but his reasons are more personal than sports-related.

The rocker had a chance to reconnect with some NFL legends whom he's had connections with in the past.

Kravitz said Sunday that Joe Namath used to live across the street from him when he was growing up and the Hall of

Famer used to play catch with him. He got a chance to meet up with Namath recently and re-connected with him on Saturday night at the NFL Honors.

The musician also chatted with another great, Jim Brown, who was a friend of his mother's, actress Roxie Roker.

Kravitz was one of the performers at the NFL official tailgate party at Lucas Oil Stadium on Sunday.

Musician Lenny Kravitz arrives for the inaugural NFL Honors show Saturday, Feb. 4, 2012, in Indianapolis.

AP



Travolta, Sandler, more make Super Bowl picks

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—John Travolta not only knows who's going to win the Super Bowl, but by how much.

The movie star had this prediction when asked for a winner of the battle between the New England Patriots and the New York Giants: "37-34, Giants."

He wasn't the only celebrity making predictions. Nick Cannon and Danny DeVito both picked the Giants, while Adam Sandler felt the Patriots had the edge (though he was admirer of the Giants Victor Cruz's salsa dance: "I like watching him do it," he said).

Donnie Wahlberg spent time besides the Patriots bench just before kickoff. Asked who he thought was going to win, he said: "The Patriots. I know it."

The Boston-area native said he was partying with the Patriots after the game—"win or lose."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Band star struck during Super Bowl weekend

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—The Super Bowl has attracted so many stars to the city that even The Fray admits to being a little starstruck. The band performed at the NFL's official tailgate party at Lucas Oil Stadium ahead of the Super Bowl on Sunday. In the days before the big game, lead singer Isaac Slade said they were in a restaurant with "Glee's" Matthew Morrison, then another VIP walked by—NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell. Later, they saw Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones. Slade said, "It's been surreal, it's kind of an 'SNL (Saturday Night Live)' skit." The band

also enjoyed plenty of star-studded events leading up to the big game—for guitarist Joe King, maybe a little too much. King said: "I feel like I'm a sponge and I've had enough."

Prince William assumes duties in Falklands

LONDON (AP)—Prince William is getting down to work as a search and rescue pilot in the Falkland Islands. Britain's Ministry of Defense on Saturday released the first photographs of William, known in the service as Flight Lt. Wales, on duty for his six-week deployment to the islands. One image shows him at the controls of a yellow Sea King helicopter, another con-

sulting maps with a colleague. William's visit has angered Argentina, which claims the islands 290 miles (460 kilometers) off its coast and refers to them as Las Malvinas, and contributed to growing tension between Britain and Argentina in the run-up to the 30th anniversary of Argentina's April 1982 invasion. The 10-week war that followed ended in British victory and killed 650 Argentine troops and more than 250 British personnel.

Mass. boxer who was on '05 reality TV show dies

HAVERHILL, Mass. (AP)—A boxer who appeared on the 2005 reality TV show "The Contender" has died after being

struck by a Massachusetts commuter train while he was walking along the tracks. MBTA officials say 34-year-old Jeffrey Fraza of Haverhill, who was known on the NBC show as "Hell Raza," died on the Haverhill tracks about 1:20 a.m. Saturday. The train had dropped off all its passengers and was returning to Boston when Fraza was hit. Fraza's trainer Micky Ward tells the Boston Herald that Fraza had Crohn's disease. The illness causes inflammation of the digestive tract. His former girlfriend Sylvia Pastrana tells the paper that Fraza was doing fine and was in good spirits. She says that he walked home by way of the tracks many times.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

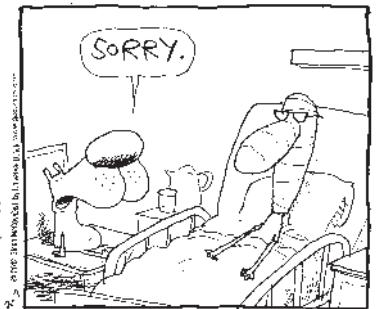
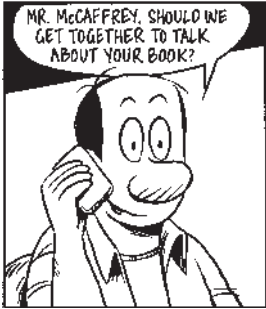


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Improve musically
- 5 Ram's mate
- 8 "Dracula" author
- 12 Eastern potentate
- 13 Parcel of land
- 14 Continental money
- 15 Puerto —
- 16 Limbs
- 18 1980s TV exec
- 20 Gumbo ingredients
- 21 AAA assignment
- 22 Expert
- 23 Station
- 26 Star of 1996 "Hamlet"
- 30 Exist
- 31 Week component
- 32 Ruby or Sandra
- 33 Missouri tourist mecca
- DOWN**
- 1 Predicate part
- 2 Eastern bigwig (Var.)
- 3 Isinglass
- 4 Quickly
- 5 Arm joint
- 6 Sported
- 7 Greek H
- 8 Summon with a gesture
- 9 German industrial district
- 10 Neighborhood
- 11 Rolling stone's lack
- 17 Mrs. Nick Charles
- 19 Speck
- 22 Snoop
- 23 Apply lightly
- 24 Blunder
- 25 —
- 26 Proscription
- 27 Do sums
- 28 "Gosh!"
- 29 That woman
- 31 Rickles or Knott's
- 34 Nothing (Ital.)
- 35 Auctioneer's call
- 36 Eggs
- 37 Maiden in "The Raven"
- 39 Pyromaniac's crime
- 40 Recipe meas.
- 41 Sandwich cookie
- 42 Lousy (Sl.)
- 43 Wait a while
- 44 Eye part
- 45 Craze
- 46 Run away
- 48 Chow down

Solution time: 21 mins.



Yesterday's answer 2-7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16				17		
18				19				20		
			21					22		
23	24	25			26			27	28	29
30				31				32		
33			34	35				36	37	
			38					39		
40	41	42			43			44	45	46
47				48				49		
50				51				52		
53				54				55		

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ashton Kutcher, 34; Chris Rock, 47; Garth Brooks, 50; James Spader, 52.

Happy Birthday: Put more emphasis on work and how you can utilize your skills to the maximum. What you offer will make a difference to your income. Taking on a high profile challenge will bring good results. It's what you do above and beyond that will count in the end. Your numbers are 5, 18, 21, 27, 30, 32, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Make a statement. Don't wait for others to upstage you. Socialize, network and play the game of life using your imagination. It's your inventive mind and original ideas that will capture interest and bring you opportunities. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Avoid pushy people. Set your priorities and stick to your game plan if you don't want to end up being someone's minion. Let your heart guide you and give you courage to express your feelings honestly. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Concentrate on what needs to be done both personally and professionally. It's up to you to speak up and let others know what you need help with and what you can accomplish on our own. Don't allow guilt to ruin your chance to advance. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Listen carefully, but don't base what you do on what others say. By using the information and elaborating on what you get from it, you will gain a much better perspective and the chance to surpass your expectations. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll be quick to judge others, but before you do, make sure you don't have anything to hide. You are likely to invite criticism if you are not gracious in the way you handle the people around you. Accept change; it's inevitable. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Strive to reach your goal. Good fortune awaits if you play your cards right. A partnership can make a difference to the outcome of your income. Proceed with a passionate eye but a practical mentality. Don't let love cost you. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You must loosen up and enjoy life and the people around you more. What you gain from others will help you make choices that will benefit you long-term. Open up to new ideas, suggestions and skills that will help you move forward. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): One step at a time. Listen and be aware of what others are doing and saying. It's important to take everything into account before you make changes. Love is in the stars, and a romantic get-together with someone special will lift your spirits. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Look at your investments. Take a moment to size up a moneymaking situation and move swiftly to benefit from a once-in-a-lifetime offer. Not everyone will agree with your choices, but your confidence will win support. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Discuss matters with the people most affected by the decisions you make. It will help you develop a greater rapport with those who count and that you want to continue to have in your life both personally and professionally. ★★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Speak up and say what's on your mind and what you intend to do in the near future. It will be much easier to move forward once you have made your intentions known to everyone you care about. ★★



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take care of business. It's eminent that you remove any obstacles on the pathway to success. Nothing is out of reach if you are dedicated and thorough in your plans and actions. Use the power of persuasion and you will succeed. ★★



Birthday Baby: You are outgoing, inventive and interesting. You are a leader, not a follower.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

1		5						7		
						8		2		6
2					7		9	8		
			1				8			
	2			9				1		
		7			6					
	4	1	2						7	
5		9		3						
	7					6			5	

Difficulty Level ★★

2/07

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	1	7	9	2	8	4	5	3
5	2	8	6	3	4	1	9	7
4	9	3	5	7	1	6	8	2
8	4	1	2	9	7	5	3	6
9	3	2	4	5	6	8	7	1
7	6	5	1	8	3	9	2	4
1	7	9	8	4	2	3	6	5
2	5	4	3	6	9	7	1	8
3	8	6	7	1	5	2	4	9

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

HIGH-POWERED BLENDERS

Solution: 10 letters

C	N	W	P	H	Q	V	A	R	I	E	T	Y	A	Y
I	O	O	A	U	T	T	S	K	N	I	R	D	F	J
R	H	N	I	S	K	A	C	L	N	A	R	I	U	K
C	D	C	S	S	H	I	A	G	T	E	S	I	I	P
U	K	E	I	I	R	E	R	O	X	L	C	T	U	F
L	T	H	T	T	S	E	R	I	U	E	C	O	S	O
A	W	E	C	A	D	T	M	M	S	H	S	W	C	O
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James, Heat hold back no-quit Raptors, 95-89



MIAMI (AP)—LeBron James scored 30 points, Dwyane Wade had 25 and the Miami Heat survived a shaky fourth quarter to beat the Toronto Raptors 95-89 on Sunday afternoon.

Chris Bosh scored 12 points against his former team, which saw a 15-point edge trimmed to three in the final minutes but never surrendered the lead. Mario Chalmers added 11 for Miami.

DeMar DeRozan scored 25 for the Raptors, who got 17 apiece from Jerryd Bayless and Linas Kleiza.

Miami won for the 10th time in its last 12 games and moved within one game of Chicago for the best record in the Eastern Conference. The Bulls and Heat both have six losses, and Miami has two games in hand.

Kleiza's 3-pointer with just under 5 minutes left got Toronto within eight, and another 3 from Bayless as the shot clock expired on the next Raptors' possession cut the Miami lead to 85-80—the closest the game had been since early in the third quarter.

Bayless scored again to get the Raptors within three and cap a 12-0 Toronto run. And after Bosh missed a fadeaway from the right baseline, Bayless tried a 3-pointer to tie. It bounced off, and with the game in the balance, James went to work.

He took a hard foul from James Johnson and made two free throws with 2:20 left, not before letting anyone around him know he wasn't pleased with the physicality of the play. So the next time he touched the ball, he didn't give the Raptors a chance to foul him—his steal and two-handed slam with 2:07 left restored some breathing room, giving Miami an 89-82 edge and all but sealing the win.

James—who leads the NBA in first-quarter scoring this season (9.1 points a game)—got off to another big start, making his first five shots and scoring 12 points in the opening quarter. He's now shooting just under 60 percent in first quarters this season. So while scoring wasn't an issue, the Heat were far from in the clear.

"This team thrives on turnovers," Raptors coach Dwane Casey said.

Documents: Seattle working to bring NBA back

SEATTLE (AP)—The city of Seattle has been working behind the scenes the past eight months with a hedge-fund manager to bring an NBA team back to town—possibly as early as next fall if the Sacramento Kings fail to get a satisfactory deal for a new arena, newly released documents show.

The city turned over the documents to *The Seattle Times* on Friday under a public records request. The documents included the agenda for a meeting between the parties on Dec. 13, with topics including "Review of Basic Deal Structure," "City Debt Capacity" and "Financing Issues."

A Seattle native who now lives in San Francisco, 44-year-old hedge-fund manager Christopher Hansen, approached the city about his desire to buy an NBA team and build an arena south of Safeco Field, the documents show. Hansen told city officials an arena could be built with minimal impact on taxpayers.

"I really appreciate it and look forward to making this happen in Seattle. I genuinely mean that and am confident



Wade combined to score 22 points in the opening quarter on 8 for 9 shooting.

In the third quarter, the Heat finally took control—not surprisingly, when the defense picked up a notch.

Toronto missed all but one of its shots over a 7-minute stretch of the third, a span where Miami started with a 55-54 lead and increased it 73-57. Chalmers hit back-to-back 3-pointers late in the 18-3 run, James made a fadeaway with 3:27 to play in the period to close the flurry.

And, just as Casey feared, turnovers proved decisive. Toronto committed eight in the third, which Miami turned into nine points. Miami gave the ball away only twice in the third, and the Raptors didn't score on either.

Celtics 98, Grizzlies 80

In Boston, Kevin Garnett matched his season-high with 24 points and grabbed nine rebounds to lead the Boston Celtics to their fourth straight win, 98-80 over the Memphis Grizzlies on Sunday.

Paul Pierce scored 21 points, moving nine behind Hall of Famer Larry Bird for second place on the club's all-time list, and Ray Allen added 12. Rajon Rondo had 14 assists and reserve Chris Wilcox chipped in with 12 points.

Rudy Gay paced the Grizzlies with 21 points and seven rebounds, and O.J. Mayo scored 15 points for Memphis, which has lost six of eight.

Boston took charge with a 21-7 run early in the fourth quarter that turned a six-point lead to 90-70 on Garnett's jumper.

Relying on a combination of reserves and two of their usual stars — Garnett and Pierce — the Celtics controlled the glass and outran the Grizzlies for transition baskets.

AP
Miami Heat's LeBron James (6) drives against Toronto Raptors' Ed Davis (32) in the first half of an NBA basketball game in Miami, Sunday, Feb. 5, 2012.

"And once they get in the open floor, you can cancel Christmas."

Casey told the Raptors that establishing pace and limiting turnovers—especially early—would be big keys. Seemed like his team got the message: The Raptors matched a season-high with 27

points in the first quarter, and turned the ball over only five times in the first half. That, combined with DeRozan tying his season best with 16 points in the opening two quarters, kept the Raptors close.

Miami's lead was only 53-48 at the break, and that was even after James and

that with a little effort and creativity we can find a solution that meets our needs and the City's/State's desire to get a team back to Seattle without a large public outlay," Hansen wrote in a June 16 email to Julie McCoy, chief of staff to Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn, and Ethan Raup, the mayor's director of policy and operations.

Seattle hasn't had an NBA team since 2008, when owner Clay Bennett moved the Sonics to Oklahoma City and renamed them the Thunder.

Hansen, who heads Valiant Capital Management LLC, offered to provide information on recent arena deals that have been put together.

The Dec. 13 meeting was attended by McCoy and Raup and set up by Carl Hirsh, a New Jersey arena consultant hired by the city in July. The agenda also included discussion of KeyArena, where the Sonics played, and which could be used as a temporary home for a new team with the permission of the NBA. The league considered it an unsuitable even before the Sonics departed.

The documents don't mention how

Seattle would obtain a team, but the Times reported that they show the city has been following developments in Sacramento, which is under a March 1 deadline to come up with a proposal to build an arena for the Kings.

In addition, NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman has expressed interest in placing a team in Seattle, leading to speculation the financially struggling Phoenix Coyotes could move to the city and possibly share an arena with a basketball team.

Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn said Saturday he is taking the proposal seriously, but doesn't want the city left "holding the bag."

"It's a pretty substantial commitment that would have to be made by the investors," McGinn said, emphasizing that the city budget can't be tapped to fund an arena.

He added that any offer also must honor the will of Seattle voters, who in 2006 overwhelmingly approved an initiative that says the city must make a profit on any investment it makes in a sports arena.

Oden undergoes knee procedure

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Trail Blazers center Greg Oden underwent an arthroscopic procedure to "remove debris" from his right knee, his fourth surgery since Portland selected him with the No. 1 pick in the 2007 draft, the team said.

The often-injured 7-footer had microfracture surgery on the same knee before the start of his rookie season, forcing him to postpone his NBA debut for a year.

Since then, Oden has appeared in just 82 career games for the Blazers, averaging 9.4 points and 7.3 rebounds.

Oden hasn't appeared in a game for the Blazers in two years. He also underwent surgery for a fractured kneecap in late 2009, then early last season he had microfracture surgery on his left knee.

The latest procedure took place Friday afternoon in Vail, Colo. The Blazers said it was successful and that Oden remains out indefinitely.

It was expected that he might be able to play for the Blazers this season, but a checkup before the start of training camp in December reportedly revealed concerns about a non-weight-bearing ligament in the left knee, further setting back his rehabilitation. Since then, he has turned down repeated interview

requests.

Oden was a restricted free agent heading into this season. The Blazers and Oden initially agreed to an \$8.9 million qualifying offer for this year, but when the setback was announced the two sides restructured the deal, which was dropped to \$1.5 million.

He will become an unrestricted free agent following this season.

Oden was selected over Oklahoma City's Kevin Durant with the top pick in the 2007 draft. The Blazers believed the former Ohio State star could lead the team—along with Brandon Roy and LaMarcus Aldridge—to an NBA championship.

But the trio has seen only scant playing time together, and Roy, a three-time All-Star, abruptly retired before the start of this season because of his own ongoing knee issues.

Oden's repeated knee problems have drawn comparisons to Sam Bowie, the injury-plagued big man the Blazers selected ahead of Michael Jordan in the 1984 draft.

While Bowie played in 76 games his rookie season, averaging 10 points and 8.6 rebounds, he appeared in just 63 games over the next four seasons because of injuries. He missed the entire 1987-88 season. In all, he had five operations on his legs.

Rangers' Hamilton confirms alcohol relapse



ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Josh Hamilton shed no tears and

used no prepared statement as he apologized and shared few details about his relapse with alcohol. Still, it was clear he was upset by what he had done.

The Texas Rangers slugger and recovering drug addict said he had "three or four" drinks during dinner at a Dallas restaurant and bar Monday and continued drinking later that night.

"Things happened that me, personally, I'm not proud of after I drank, and they are personal and are being handled as that," he said Friday during a news conference called specifically to address the incident. "Knowing this was going to get out in social media, Twitter, people get excited. There was no pictures taken of me having a beer with somebody or anything like that, but I did take pictures with people."

Hamilton didn't elaborate or give any real indication about what those things were.

Hamilton was suspended for more than three years for drug and alcohol use while in the Tampa Bay organization. The former No. 1 overall draft pick missed the entire 2003, 2004 and 2005 seasons, but has become one of the best players in baseball on a team that has won the last two American League pennants. He was the AL MVP in 2010.

The 30-year-old Hamilton said his latest actions "hurt a lot of people very close to me." He closed his eyes at one point and seemed to force a smile another time. He didn't take questions during his 12-minute appearance.

Without being specific, Hamilton said he had a "weak moment" that stemmed from "personal reasons" involving a family member. He said he walked to a restaurant to have dinner and ended up "ordering a drink, and probably had three or four drinks."

Hamilton said he did not take any drugs, and had no thoughts of doing so. He said he has been tested for drugs twice since Monday, part of his normal mandated routine.

This is Hamilton's second known



Texas Rangers' Josh Hamilton speaks during a baseball news conference at the Rangers Ballpark in Arlington, Texas, Friday, Feb. 3, 2012.

alcohol-related relapse in three years. Both came during the offseason, and this one has put on hold talks with the Rangers about a contract extension.

After his public apology earlier in the day, Hamilton appeared as scheduled Friday night at a Christian men's rally in Katy, Texas, near Houston. He again didn't take any questions and spoke only to the congregation.

"I could hide in shame, and not show up tonight and be withdrawn, but I didn't want to do that," Hamilton told the group while reiterating his Christian faith. "I'm doing what I had to do today. I am fessing up. I am going to be a man about it; I am fessing up. People are going to call me a hypocrite, but I am a sinful man."

In January 2009, he drank to excess in a bar in Tempe, Ariz. He apologized for that a few months later when a dozen or so pictures were posted online showing Hamilton taking shots off the bar, and dancing and hugging several young women. He said then that he had

been sober since October 2005.

Hamilton and general manager Jon Daniels said the outfielder will meet soon with Major League Baseball doctors and counselors in New York for an evaluation in his continued recovery.

"My life in general is based on making the right choices, everything as far as my recovery, as far as my baseball goes, it's all based around my relationship with the Lord," Hamilton said earlier at Rangers Ballpark. "And I look at it like that, you all know how hard I play on the field and I give it everything I absolutely have. When I don't do that off the field, I leave myself open for a weak moment."

After having a few drinks with dinner, Hamilton called Ian Kinsler to come hang out with him.

Hamilton said Kinsler didn't know he had been drinking, and that he never had a drink in front of his teammate, even when they left before the restaurant closed and went to another place nearby for 25-30 minutes. Then Kinsler drove him back to where he was

staying not far away.

Though Hamilton told Kinsler he was not going anywhere else, Hamilton said he later returned to the place they had left and had more drinks.

Daniels, who was out of town and spoke on a later conference call, was asked if he was concerned that the incident was more than just Hamilton having a few drinks. The GM referred to Hamilton saying that alcohol had led the outfielder to some things he wasn't proud of.

"I don't know. I wasn't there," Daniels said. "That's how Josh wants to address those things right now."

In Twitter posts Friday, Hamilton's wife, Katie, wrote: "Truly appreciate all the encouraging & supportive tweets we've been getting. God is Faithful and forgives- so thankful that you all are ... Showing us such love and encouragement during this time."

When the Rangers acquired him from the Cincinnati Reds in December 2007, they were aware of Hamilton's

off-the-field problems. He is tested for drug use three times a week and has had an accountability partner to support him in his recovery—though that job is now vacant.

Assistant hitting coach Johnny Narron's primary role was to support the former No. 1 overall draft pick, but Narron left the Rangers in November for Milwaukee.

The Rangers announced last month that Hamilton's father-in-law had been hired as a staff special assistant to be the accountability partner, but Michael Dean Chadwick has since decided against accepting that position because of "family considerations."

Daniels said the team was close to hiring someone for the job, a process that was already in the final stages before the latest incident. He said an announcement could come next week.

But Daniels said such a person likely wouldn't have been with Hamilton during the offseason when he was home with his family, as was the case this week.

Hamilton can become a free agent after this season and had been talking to the Rangers about a contract extension.

"It would be nice if it was talking about a contract but we'll put that on the back burner for a while," Hamilton said before walking out of the room. Daniels concurred that he had agreed with Hamilton's agent, Mike Moyer, that contract talks would be put on hold. Daniels said there was no timetable for resuming them.

While Daniels said Hamilton's relapse created a number of emotions, including disappointment, the GM said the overriding concern was for Hamilton and his family. Hamilton and his wife have four daughters, the youngest born last summer.

"For everybody who I have hurt, for everybody—fans, kids, people who have addictions and look up to me—I apologize to you," he said. "When you're doing this, you don't mean to hurt anybody. You only think you're hurting yourself. But as I know, you're hurting a lot of people."

Kyle Stanley rallies to win Phoenix Open

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP)—Kyle Stanley rebounded from a devastating loss to win the Phoenix Open, overcoming an eight-stroke deficit Sunday in a comeback as unlikely as his collapse last week at Torrey Pines.

In tears seven days ago in San Diego after blowing a big lead—dropping the final strokes with a triple-bogey 8 on the final hole—and losing a playoff, Stanley took advantage of Spencer Levin's meltdown Sunday to win his first PGA Tour title.

"I'm not sure what I'm thinking right now," Stanley said. "I just needed to focus on playing golf. I needed to put last week behind me."

Stanley closed with a bogey-free 6-under 65, holing a 4-foot par putt on the par-4 18th, to finish at 15-under 269.

He cried again, this time tears of joy.

"I just want to thank my mom and dad. They've done a lot for me. I'm speechless," Stanley said in the scoring area moments after the victory.

Ben Crane had a 66 to finish a stroke back.

Levin, six strokes ahead entering the round and seven in front after one hole, shot a 75 to finish two strokes behind Stanley.

"I just didn't have it," Levin said. "Maybe I was looking ahead too much and trying too hard. What are you going to do? I tried my best."

The 24-year-old Stanley, the long-hitting former Clemson star from Gig Harbor, Wash., birdied the par-5 13th and par-4 14th to take a one-stroke lead at 15 under.

Levin, winless on the PGA Tour, birdied the 14th to regain a share of the lead, but dropped back with a double-bogey 7 on the par-5 15th.

"I really feel for him," Stanley said. "You don't want to wish that on anyone. He's a very good player. ... I feel bad for him."

Stanley parred the final three holes, playing a great recovery shot from under cactus to the right of the short par-4 17th.

He birdied Nos. 2, 3, 8, 9 and 11 to get to 13 under, and within three strokes of the faltering Levin.

Levin birdied No. 4 to reach 18 under, but bogeyed Nos. 4 and 6 and dropped two more strokes on Nos. 11 and 12 to let Stanley into the mix.

"I don't really know," Levin said. "I felt all right early."

Last week at Torrey Pines, Stanley led by seven shots early in the final round, and still had a four-shot lead as he stood on the tee at the par-5 18th.

But his third shot had too much spin and didn't get high enough on the green, spinning quickly down the slope and into the water. He three-putted from 45 feet for the triple bogey, then lost to Brandt Snedeker on the second playoff hole when his 5-foot par putt caught the right edge of the cup.

Did this victory erase last week?

"Not really," Stanley said. "I'm never going to forget that."

D.J. Trahan had a 66 to finish fourth at 12 under, and Brendan Steele (64) was another stroke back along with Kevin Na (65) and Bubba Watson (70).

Phil Mickelson shot a 73 to tie for 26th at 6 under.

"I felt good," the former Arizona State star said. "I just couldn't quite get it going."



Kyle Stanley holds the championship trophy after winning the Phoenix Open golf tournament Sunday, Feb. 5, 2012, in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Wado-Kai Dojo offers free Karate lessons today

Wado-Kai Karatedo Saipan is offering free trial lessons for interested students tonight at 7pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Japan’s Fumiyasu Ishiguro and Yurie Mori will instruct the lessons along with sensei Eiichi Ishiguro.

Eiichi Ishigoru is a seven-Dan

master of the martial art.

The Dan ranking system is a Japanese mark of level that is used in modern martial arts. Seven-Dan, or Nandan, is equivalent to a seventh degree black belt; the Japanese system goes up to 10-Dan (Judan).

Fumiyasu Ishiguro is the 1998 Wado-Kai Euoopean

Kumite Champion, while Mori holds titles as the 2009 Japan Champion Team Kumite and 2010 Wado-Kai World Kumite champions in addition to being a 2011 Japan national team member.

Kumite translates to “spar-ring” and represent one of the three main staples of karate

training, the other two being *kihon* and *kata*.

Kihon includes the basics or fundamentals of Karate, while *kata* translates to “form” and describes how students practice detailed choreographed patterns of movements.

In addition, a second free trial lesson will be held at Himawari

on Thursday at 6:30pm.

The dojo is offering lessons for \$20 for the first month, after which the lessons will be listed at its standard \$30 monthly rate.

Following the trial period, lessons are being offered on Tuesdays and Fridays at Ada Gym from 6:30pm to 7:30pm and then again from 7:40pm to 8:40pm.

Lessons will also be offered at Himawari on Mondays and Thursdays from 5:40pm to 6:40pm and from 6:50pm to 7:50pm.

For reservations or more information, call 233-9856 or 287-9856; walk-ins are welcome as well. **(Walter Cepeda-Sutherland)**

GIANTS

From Page 28

The play failed.

“Ball was inside the 10-yard line, a 90 percent field goal conversion,” he said. “Sure, could have done a better job in a lot of things.”

Manning did everything asked of him in the final minutes, a habit for the eight-year veteran. He’s beaten the Patriots in two thrilling Super Bowls. The Giants (13-7), who stood 7-7 in mid-December, now own the football world, and Manning owns two Super Bowl MVP awards, the same number as Brady.

It was a classic I-can-top-that showdown with the outcome in doubt until the last desperation pass fell to the turf as the last second ticked off the clock. Manning started the game with nine straight completions, a Super Bowl record; Brady hit 16 straight over the second and third quarters, breaking Joe Montana’s Super bowl record of 13.

Manning finished 30 for 40 for 296 yards and one touchdown, while Brady was 27 for 41 for 276 yards with two TDs and one interception.

“It’s been a wild game, a wild season,” Manning said.

Manning led six comeback victories during the season and set an NFL record with 15 fourth-quarter touchdown passes. He showed

that brilliance in the clutch on the winning drive, completing five passes, starting with a sensational 38-yard sideline catch by Mario Manningham.

On second down at the Patriots 6 and with only one timeout remaining, Belichick had his defense stand up as Bradshaw took the handoff. Bradshaw thought about stopping short of the end zone, then tumbled in untouched.

“I was yelling to him, ‘Don’t score, don’t score,’” Manning said. “He tried to stop, but he fell into the end zone.”

Brady couldn’t answer in the final 57 seconds, although his heave into the end zone on the final play fell just beyond the grasp of lunging All-Pro tight end Rob Gronkowski. New England (15-4), winner of 10 straight since a loss to the Giants in November, was done.

Brady headed off with his head bowed, holding his helmet, still one short of the record four Super Bowl victories by Terry Bradshaw for the Pittsburgh Steelers and Joe Montana for the San Francisco 49ers.

“Certainly it wasn’t one play that was the reason we lost,” Brady said. “Everybody feels they could do a little more. I’d rather come to this game and lose than not get here.”

All around him was the wild celebration by the Giants, NFL champions for the eighth—and

perhaps most unlikely—time.

“Great toughness, great faith and great plays by a number of guys today,” Manning said, deflecting some of the attention. Still, he beat Brady. And he went one better than Peyton, the Indianapolis Colts quarterback who has one ring of his own but didn’t play this season as he recovered from neck surgery.

“It just feels good to win a Super Bowl. It doesn’t matter where you are,” Manning said.

It was the fifth trip to a Super Bowl for Brady and Belichick, tying the record. And it looked like a successful one when they stormed back from a 9-0 deficit and led 17-9 in the third quarter. But the Giants, who reached New England territory on every possession except a kneeldown at the end of the first half, got field goals of 38 and 33 yards from Tynes. And it looked like Tynes, who kicked them into the Super Bowl four years ago at Green Bay and again this year at San Francisco, both in overtime, would get called on again.

Then Belichick, known to try just about anything in a game, took a risk that didn’t pay off.

The Giants are the first Super Bowl winner that was outscored during the regular season. They were 6-2 after that 24-20 victory at New England, then lost four straight and five of six.

Coach Tom Coughlin insisted “the prize” was still

within reach. Now the Giants are holding tight to that Vince Lombardi Trophy.

“What I was concerned with was these guys making their own history,” Coughlin said. “This is such a wonderful thing, these guys carving their own history.”

Coughlin got his own piece of the record book as the oldest coach, at 65, to win a Super Bowl.

It was the Giants’ fourth Super Bowl championship, more than any franchise except Pittsburgh with six and San Francisco and Dallas with five, and they became the first team to finish the regular season 9-7 and win the title.

New England had the ball for all of one play in the first 11 1-2 minutes, and that play was an utter failure, a rare poor decision by Brady. After Steve Weatherford’s punt was downed at the New England 6, Brady dropped to pass in the end zone and had time. With everyone covered and Giants defensive end Justin Tuck finally coming free to provide pressure, Brady heaved the ball downfield while still in the pocket.

Only problem: No Patriots receivers were anywhere near the pass. The Giants were awarded a safety for Brady’s grounding in the end zone.

Manning, meanwhile, couldn’t have been more on target early, hitting six receivers in

he had to do was catch the ball and, perhaps, make it to the end zone. Amazingly, the ball went off his hands.

“It’s one of those plays I’ve made 1,000 times,” he said.

Brady and Deion Branch failed to connect on the next play on a pass just behind the receiver and the Patriots punted.

“We had opportunities to put this team away and we didn’t,” Branch said. “All the plays were big. Every play is important. Had I made the catch that was behind me, that could have been a key third down but we didn’t connect on it.”

done it before in the Super Bowl.

Four years ago, he took home his first MVP award after a scoring pass to Plaxico Burress with 35 seconds left allowed New York to upset Brady and New England, ruining the Patriots’ bid for a perfect season. Back then, Manning got a boost from David Tyree’s Velcro-helmet grab on the go-ahead drive. This time, the key play was Mario Manningham’s 38-yard, over-the-shoulder catch between two defenders along the sideline,

It nearly was.

“I felt like I was close,” Gronkowski said. “But close isn’t there.”

Added Brady: “We got to the 50, and ran out of time.”

The Patriots missed plenty of opportunities when there was plenty of time left, including those three fumbles. The Giants recovered two. And the one New England’s Brandon Spikes came up with was nullified because the Patriots had 12 men on the field.

Two plays later, Manning hit Victor Cruz for a 2-yard touchdown and a 9-0 lead late in the first quarter.

Then Brady got hot, completing a Super Bowl-record 16 straight passes, and the Patriots surged to a 17-15 lead.

“I thought we played very competitive, had our moments where we moved the ball and stopped them,” Belichick said. “We were in the lead for a good part of the game. We just came up a couple of plays short.”

The Patriots had a chance to make it a two-possession game when a mix-up on the Giants defense left Welker alone.

On a second-and-11 at the Patriots 44, the sure-handed receiver had a chance to score. All

MISSED

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Rob Gronkowski and Aaron Hernandez, were there with three defenders. The ball was tipped out of reach of a lunging Gronkowski, who was hampered by a high left ankle sprain suffered in the AFC championship game.

“We’ve completed a Hail Mary this year,” said Giants quarterback Eli Manning, who won his second Super Bowl MVP award. “I was hoping there wasn’t going to be another one completed, for them.”

ELI

From Page 28

This late drive, so reminiscent of the way New York beat New England in the 2008 Super Bowl with Manning as MVP, started on the Giants’ 12, with a little more than 3 1/2 minutes left and the Patriots ahead 17-15. It closed with running back Ahmad Bradshaw easing into the end zone from 6 yards out. The Patriots decided not to contest the run, trying to save

some time on the clock for a final drive—a risky and desperate decision by Patriots coach Bill Belichick.

But New England couldn’t get the ball back in the end zone, with Tom Brady’s final heave from his 49 falling barely beyond the grasp of tight end Rob Gronkowski.

“We had this goal to finish, finish, finish,” Coughlin said, “and win the fourth quarter.”

That’s precisely when Manning takes over.

In the regular season, he threw

said. “I’ll keep throwing the ball to him for as long as I possibly can. He’s a phenomenal player and teammate. I love that guy.”

When Welker was done with his stint at the postgame podium, he walked slowly to the team bus with a backpack over his left shoulder. At one point, he passed a group of cheering fans dressed in Giants shirts. He kept walking, looking blankly straight ahead.

At least he could share the misery with his teammates.

“I think every guy in the locker room wishes they could have done a little more,” Brady said.

(were) going to come. We just had to take advantage of them.”

Manning now is one of only five players in NFL history with multiple Super Bowl MVP awards. He joined the guy he got the better of in the big game yet again, Brady, along with Terry Bradshaw, Bart Starr and Joe Montana (the only player with three). And Manning did it in the House that Peyton Built, the stadium where his Big Bro—a four-time regular-season MVP but owner of only one Super Bowl title—plays for the Indianapolis Colts.



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Fans inside Charley's Cabaret cheer as the Patriots stole the lead at halftime, 10-9, in Super Bowl XLVI yesterday at Pacific Islands Club.



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Fans attending Red Box's Super Monday event cheer as the Giants took an early 9-3 lead in Super Bowl XLVI yesterday at Saipan World Resort.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

North Carolina's Darwin Jones, second left, joins his friends in watching yesterday's Super Bowl XLVI at Godfather's Bar.

All roads lead to Saipan Super Bowl parties

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTERS



Football fans on Saipan watched "Elite" Eli Manning lead the New York Giants to a come-

from-behind win against the New England Patriots, 21-17, in yesterday's Super Bowl XLVI.

Manning won his second Super Bowl trophy and MVP honors in five seasons, besting older brother Peyton and rival Tom Brady and proving that the Giants' victory in 2008 was no fluke.

It was the ending that Jeff Boyer hoped for.

"I went for the underdogs. Tom Brady is NFL's Golden Boy, while people seemed to underestimate Eli Manning and his Giants, so I'd like them to win," said the IP&E country manager.

Boyer and his wife, Vinycia, spent their lunch break watching yesterday's Super Bowl at Hard Rock Café and said it was all worth it as they witnessed a very thrilling game.

The Giants were behind, 15-17, with 3:46 left, when Manning threw an 88-yard pass en



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Football fans cheer after the New York Football Giants scored a safety in the opening quarter of Super Bowl XLVI at Naked Fish Bar & Grill yesterday.

route to Ahmad Bradshaw's 6-yard touchdown run that put New York in the lead, 21-17.

"It was the kind of game (close one) that you would want to see every time you watch the Super Bowl," Boyer added.

Super Bowl dayoff

While the Boyers spent only about an hour watching the Pats-Giants rematch, other football fans reserved the entire day for Super Bowl.

"I took an off from work just to watch the game," said Rich-

ard Benavente, who watched his Patriots gambled in the closing minutes of the match and lost.

"Win or lose, going out to watch Super Bowl is a great opportunity to spend time with your friends, meet your fellow football fans, and enjoy great food and drinks at a good price. If I watched at home, I have to buy cases of beer for my friends, cook, and wash the dishes, so that's a lot of hassle," said Benavente, who conveniently watched the game at Godfather's Bar.

Godfather's Scott Dottino

said over 50 fans were at their bar for the Super Bowl and each paid \$25 for all-you-can drink beer and margarita and Super Bowl food (pizza, buffalo wings, burrito, and others).

"We did not change our price to show our appreciation to our customers and continue this Super Bowl tradition," Dottino said.

Carlos Rivera, who watched the game at Tribes Bar, also saved Monday for Super Bowl.

"My dayoff changes every week, but for this Super Bowl, I had to make a request for a Monday day-off three days before the game so I can watch this," said Rivera, who became a football fan when his Baltimore Ravens defeated the Giants in 2001.

Raffles, promotion

Companies capitalized on the Super Bowl to promote their

products and fans are just happy not only after watching a nice game and enjoying good food, but also after getting giveaways, such as hats, mugs, T-shirts, pens, and other merchandise.

This year, both MARPAC, distributor of Budweiser products, and Pacific Trading, Co. distributed of Miller Lite products, teamed up with various bars and restaurants during yesterday's Super Bowl. The two companies donated raffle prizes and giveaways.

At Godfather's each fans received shirts, while over at Tribes, spectators received lunch and hotel accommodation certificates.

Godfather's also had the Super Bowl "pool" where the winner is decided through the last digit in the scores of the opposing teams.

"I came here rooting for no particular team, as I am just waiting for a win in the pool," Bruce Bateman said.

"What more can you ask for, you have free flowing food and drinks, good service, and more prizes to take home. It's the kind of place/environment you would want to be in," said Darwin Jones, a first time Saipan visitor who went to Godfather's with his friends.

Fans flock to hotels and bars

At Naked Fish Bar & Grill, there was about 20 people, mostly a mix of both Giants and Patriots fans. Naked Fish showcased its newly renovated bar and dining room, equipped with a large flat screen TV and buffet.

Meanwhile, 60 people, mostly Giants fans, watched the

game at Saipan World Resort. Patrons received free breakfast and rush hour lunch buffets as well as free drinks. Some \$1,000 worth of prizes were given away throughout the game such as hotel stays, food coupons, and water park passes. In addition, the first 50 people to show up received a free Heineken T-shirt.

Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret featured a large crowd of over 100 gridiron fans. Before the kickoff, most in attendance claimed to be cheering for the Giants, but as the game progressed it appeared as though they were simply cheering for whoever had the ball and/or the lead. Basically every big play caused a loud uproar, regardless of the team.

Patrons took advantage of PIC's free breakfast buffet as well as an endless supply of drinks and burgers during the game.

An array of side games and prizes were also given away throughout the event.

Suzie Torres of Koblerville was the big winner and went home with a brand new 32" RCA flat screen TV/DVD combo provided by Super Fresh Market.

Other big winners included Velma Reyes of Dan Dan, who received \$250 for winning the game score raffle drawing in both the first and second quarters. Frankie Villagomez won the third quarter and Jun Rosario took the prize in the final period; the pair won \$125 each.

Pacific Trading Co. provided the cash prizes as well as the drinks, while Triple J's Super Fresh Market gave away gift certificates as well.

Aim Low wins Rocball finals opener

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER



Aim Low needed an overtime to thwart the Teachers in Game 1 of the finals series in the 2011 Rocball Fall League yesterday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The J.R. Gechig-led Aim Low won the series opener of the best-of-five title duel, 46-38, leaning on its strong service game in the extra set to draw first blood against the Teachers. Game 2 will be played today.

A.J. Aguilar served for Aim Low in the fourth and extra set and connected on two aces for a 4-0 lead. The Teachers broke Aguilar's next serve, but could not keep the possession, while Y.J. Nakayama served next for a 6-2 lead. Aim Low then needed only two more points to end the match and they did when

another serve was unreturned, as Maria Ornes scrambled down low and failed to hit her target near the right sideline.

Game 1 of the final series went in o-kon when the Teachers won the third set, 14-12. The regulation ended with Aim Low still on top, 38-36, however it could not take Game 1 outright as Rocball rules state that the leading team can only win if it prevails in the third set.

In overtime, Aim Low needed to win only one set, while the Teachers must take two sets. Also in overtime, a team can only win a set if it takes a six-point margin first or scores a goal.

Aim Low managed a two-point lead in regulation after winning by six in the first set, 15-9. The Teachers took the second set by only two points, 13-11, to still fall behind, 22-26, going into the third set. Aim Low led, 11-9, in the third set and was one point away from a juiced-out victory before Tyce Mister and Nick Gross led the

Teachers' comeback to steal the set and forced overtime.

However in the extra set, Mister and Gross, who also teamed up with Kristine Springer and John Nekaifes, could not keep up with Aim Low's serves and dropped the series opener.

Aguilar and Nakayama top-scored for Aim Low in Game 1 with 10 points each. Nakayama had four aces and one xunk, while Aguilar logged two aces and three kees. Gechig added eight points off three aces and one kee.

Gross led the Teachers with 12 markers, built on four kees and two aces, while Mister and Nekaifes contributed eight and six, respectively. Neither team scored a goal, which is worth three points.

The Teachers and Aim Low arranged their championship showdown after sweeping Just-Do-It and Roc It in the semifinals, respectively, last week. The semifinals was only a best-of-three affair.

Activity Schedule for February 7, 2012

<p>NMBA Gym will be temporarily closed due to the installation of taraflex flooring. The renovation of the badminton courts will be completed by February 12, 2012. For the meantime, members and players will be using the Gillette Multipurpose Gym for badminton practices starting February 1, 2012.</p>	<p>Northern Marianas Badminton Association 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM (Morning practices) 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM (Evening practices)</p>	<p>2012 Men's B Futsal League 6:00 PM There are no games scheduled for today. Games will resume on Monday, February 13, 2012.</p>
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James, Heat hold back
Raptors, 95-89

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All roads lead
to Saipan Super
Bowl parties

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Giants beat Patriots to win Super Bowl

By BARRY WILNER
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

Elite and Eli. One and the same. And now there are two Super Bowl championships and two MVPs to prove it.

Eli Manning is the big man in the NFL after one-upping Tom Brady and leading the New York Giants to a 21-17 victory over the New England Patriots in Sunday's Super Bowl—in older brother Peyton's house, at that.

"This isn't about one person," Manning insisted. "This is about a team coming together."

A team led by a quarterback who months ago claimed—to snickers throughout the league—that he belonged in the same stratosphere as Brady, and then proved it.

Just as Manning did four years ago when the Giants ruined New England's perfect season, he guided them 88 yards to the decisive touchdown, which the Patriots didn't contest as Ahmad Bradshaw ran 6 yards with 57 seconds left.

"Certainly Eli has had a great season. He made some great throws in the fourth quarter, and they deserved to win," Brady said.

They got some help from Patriots coach Bill Belichick, whose late-game risk didn't turn out as he planned. Belichick reasoned the Giants would run the clock down and kick a short field goal, so he gambled by allowing the six points.

See **GIANTS** on
Page 26



New England Patriots wide receiver Wes Welker pulls off his helmet as New York Giants linebacker Mathias Kiwanuka (94) celebrates in the background after the Giants' 21-17 win over the Patriots in the NFL Super Bowl XLVI football game, Sunday, Feb. 5, 2012, in Indianapolis.

Missed chances cost Patriots in Super Bowl

By HOWARD ULMAN
AP SPORTS WRITER

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—The eyes that watched Tom Brady's pass sail to him were red. The hands that couldn't catch it were clasped in his lap. The heart that has helped make Wes Welker a star was broken.

Blame me, he said. Blame me for letting a ball I always catch fall to the ground.

New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady reacts during the second half of the NFL Super Bowl XLVI football game against the New York Giants, Sunday, Feb. 5, 2012, in Indianapolis.

"It comes to the biggest moment of my life, and (I) don't come up with it," the New England Patriots wide receiver said. "Most critical situation, and I let the team down."

One of the NFL's smallest receivers at 5-foot-9 and its leading receiver with 122 catches wasn't the only one who missed an opportunity that ruined the chances of coach Bill Belichick's usually disciplined players of winning their fourth Super Bowl.

They lost to the New York Giants 21-17 on Sunday.

There was a safety on the Patriots' first offensive play. There were three fumbles by the Giants, but they kept the ball after each one against a team

that led the AFC with a plus-17 turnover differential.

And there was a desperation heave by Brady on the final play into the end zone—a pass covering more than half the field that bounced off several players in the end zone. After it bounced off the last set of fingertips and fell to the ground, the game was over.

So was the Patriots' last, longshot hope.

"The ball's just floating in the air," Patriots guard Logan Mankins said. "I think everybody's holding their breath—the crowd, the coaches, the players."

The Patriots other two star receivers, See **MISSED** on Page 27



New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning holds the Vince Lombardi Trophy after his team's 21-17 win over New England Patriots in the NFL Super Bowl XLVI football game, Sunday, Feb. 5, 2012, in Indianapolis.

Eli Manning wins 2nd Super Bowl MVP award

By HOWARD FENDRICH
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Eli Manning is elite, for sure. A king of comebacks, too. And far, far more than Peyton's little brother now.

Spot-on from beginning to end Sunday night, Eli Manning won his second NFL championship in a four-year span—and second Super Bowl MVP award—for coolly, calmly steering the New York Giants to a 21-17 victory over the New England Patriots with a last-minute touchdown drive.

"We've had a bunch of them this year. We've had some fourth-quarter comebacks," said Manning, 30 for 40 for 296 yards, with one touchdown pass and zero interceptions. "We'd been in those situations, and we knew that we had no more time left. We had to go down and score, and guys stepped up and made great plays."

Led, as usual, by Manning himself.

He opened the game by becoming the first quarterback to complete his first nine attempts in a Super Bowl. And he finished the job by directing the nine-play, 88-yard TD drive that put New York ahead with 57 seconds left.

"That was quite a drive that he was able to put together," Giants coach Tom Coughlin said. "He deserves all the credit in the world, because he really has put his team on his shoulders all year."

See **ELI** on Page 27